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VAMPIRE GAME
by JUDAL
7
TOKYOPOP

VAMPIRE GAME

Volume 7

by

JUDAL

TOKYOPOP®

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VAMPIRE GAME

The Story Thus Far...

This is the tale of the Vampire King Duzell and his quest for revenge against the good King Phelios, a valiant warrior who slew the vampire a century ago. Now Duzell has returned, reincarnated as a feline foe to deliver woe to... Well, that's the problem. Who is the reincarnation of King Phelios?

Equally as important, *where* is King Phelios? For quite some time, Duzell and Princess Ishtar have been looking for him in the kingdom of Ci Xeneth. As of yet they haven't found Phelios, but they *have* found a homicidal lord who would stop at nothing to obtain the Phellostan throne for himself. They *have* found a dungeon full of monsters that have been kidnapped and mercilessly slaughtered to feed a dark obsession. They *have* found a young captain capable of unleashing some of the most destructive magic in Phellosta. They *have* found a powerful sorcerer pulling the strings behind the scenes. A sorcerer who has revealed himself to be none other than the Vampire Sharlen, one of the most powerful vampires in Phellosta.

Yes, Duzell and Ishtar have learned much about Ci Xeneth. Unfortunately, they still haven't learned how to stay out of trouble. Particularly Ishtar. Otherwise, she never would have freed all the monsters in the dungeon, spurring a rebellion that's sure to cost lives (and the castle's supply of Jell-O). She never would have angered her uncle Jened, who wanted her dead even before she turned his castle into a psychotic petting zoo. And she surely wouldn't have convinced Duzell to court the powerful Captain Ilsaide, who's already confused about where his loyalties lie. Ishtar's meddling has caught up to her, and the punishment is likely to be severe, especially now that her beloved bodyguard has shown up to save the day. Darres has managed to keep Ishtar from harm so far, but with the demonic Sharlen determined to prevent their escape, the cost of Ishtar's actions just may be his life.

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UNCLE JENED SAID THAT TO FALAN ONCE...
"AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY CHILD..."
...BASICALLY CONFIRMING THAT SHE'S THE REASON HE'S OBSESSED WITH CONQUERING PHELIOSTA.
NEVER MIND THAT SHE COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THE THRONE, AND CERTAINLY DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO ME.

"...OR WHO I HAVE TO KILL TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN."
吸血遊戯
シー・ゼネス
東領篇
Act.14

...WHY HE'S DOING EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO CREATE A DIVINE SWORD. ONE THAT COULD EVEN RIVAL SIDIA, THE HOLY SWORD.
.....
?!
VAMPIRES CAN'T USE RUELLES. THAT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TAUGHT.
SO WILL SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME HOW SHARLEN'S ABLE TO WIELD THAT SWORD? OR USE HOLY MAGIC?!! SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY NOT RIGHT HERE.

...BUT FALAN WOULD BE QUEEN.
BUT IF I'M OUT OF THE WAY, NOT ONLY WOULD JENED CONTROL THE MOST POWERFUL RUELLES IN THE WORLD...
BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN...

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU CAN HANDLE THIS. I HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH THIS ONE. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US...
DARRES?!
SHARLEN CAN TELEPORT? THERE'S NO WAY DARRES CAN TAKE ON A VAMPIRE THAT POWERFUL!
HE CAN'T USE HOLY MAGIC, AND DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A RUELLE.
AT LEAST, NOT ONE THAT'S GOING TO DO HIM ANY GOOD IN A FIGHT.
DARRES! DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE...
LIKE THE FACT THAT I'M STANDING HERE THINKING OF THIS RATHER THAN GETTING MY ASS OUT OF HARM'S WAY. THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT RIGHT.
COME NOW, ISHTAR!
STARTING WITH A DEFENSIVE SPELL? CAN'T YOU DO BETTER THAN THAT?
WHY DON'T YOU SAVE US BOTH A LOT OF TROUBLE AND JUST GIVE UP?
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, SIDIA!
SHARLEN...

AND I PROMISED NOT TO HURT HIM.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S A MURDEROUS, OBSESSIVE BASTARD...
...FALAN LOVES HIM.
I KEEP GETTING DISTRACTED. FOCUS, DUZEUL! YOU NEED JENED'S BLOOD!

BUT TRY NOT TO KILL THE LORD OF THE SEA. HE, AT LEAST, HAS HIS USES...
WELL, YOU HAVE WORK TO DO HERE, ILLSAIDE. TERMINATE ISHTAR AND THE LAKE BEFORE THE CREATURE SPIRITS THEM AWAY!
VAMPIRES... THEY'RE SO UNRELIABLE.
LORD OF THE SEA?!
I KNOW JUST THE SPELL...

THOSE ARE ISHTAR'S LEGSARAM CHARMS?! SHE'S DEFENSELESS!
WHAT'S WRONG, DU?
I'VE GOT TO FIND HER!
OH, UM... NOTHING!
MAYBE WHEN I FIND JENED, I CAN JUST KNOCK FALAN OUT AND LET HER REST FOR A BIT. THIS SHOULD AT LEAST KEEP HER OUT OF TROUBLE.
...AND ISHTAR FINDS OUT YOU HAVE HER CHARMS.
...BEFORE YOUR FATHER FINDS ISHTAR...
C'MON, LETS GO!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND ISHTAR AND YOUR FATHER...
BUT FIRST, YOU NEED TO FIND A PLACE TO STASH THE BROAD!
FALAN...
TO ILLSAIDE, FALAN IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD.

LORD OF THE SEA!
YOU'RE THE OLD MAN WE MET BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, AREN'T YOU?
AND THESE MONSTERS? THEY ARE YOUR... SUBJECTS?
B-But...

FALAN, ISN'T JUST IMPORTANT TO ILLSAIDE AND JENED
SHE'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO ISHTAR
MY FATHER? WHAT'S GOING ON?
EXPLANATIONS LATER. RUNNING NOW.

I'M ISHTAR, OF THE HOUSE OF PHELIOS
I DIDN'T.
...AND I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE I WAS ALSO HIDING MY TRUE IDENTITY, AND I TREATED YOU WITH DISRESPECT
AND AS A RESULT, A LOT OF HUMANS AND MONSTERS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES. WAY TO GO, ISHTAR.
NOT THAT ANY OF THAT MATTERS MUCH NOW
THE TRUTH IS, I REALLY SHOULD HAVE SPENT MORE TIME THINKING THIS THROUGH

I'LL BE FINE DON'T WORRY!
THE LILKE CAN GET YOU OUT OF HERE! SOMEPLACE FAR, WHERE MY UNCLE CAN'T FIND YOU THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO STICK AROUND!
YOU TWO SHOULD GO!

WHAT'S THAT?
I'M SORRY...
BUT IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE WITH HIS WOUNDS, OUR LORD WOULD NEVER SURVIVE THE TELEPORTATION.
BESIDES, I MUST HAVE A CALM MIND AND SPIRIT TO TELEPORT. RIGHT NOW, I'M SHAKING SO BADLY, WE'D NEVER MAKE IT!
P-

FATHER

A TOUCHING SPEECH, OLD MAN...
...BUT THIS BOY HERE IS PART OF MY FAMILY, AS WELL.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT, DID YOU?
NO...
.....

YOUR DAUGHTER MAY BE HIS MOTHER..
..BUT I AM ILLSAIDE'S FATHER
.....!!
ILLSAIDE IS JENED'S SON?!
THAT MEANS FALAN AND ILLSAIDE ARE
OH, THAT'S JUST SICK

ILLSAIDE AND MY DAUGHTER FALAN.. ARE IN LOVE!
BUT, WAIT.. IT GETS BETTER
I ALMOST DIED WHEN ILLSAIDE ASKED ME FOR HER HAND.
YOUR SON ASKS TO MARRY HIS HALF-SISTER?
LET ME TELL YOU, IT'S NOT EASY
..IN EXCHANGE FOR LEVELING MERARIM
CAN YOU IMAGINE TRYING TO KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE WHEN..
.....

YOU FOOL!
YOU 'IDIOT'
YOU UTTER AND COMPLETE IMBECILE!
AT ANY COST!!
...ALLOW ME TO TRY AND MAKE PRINCESS FALAN AS HAPPY...
...AS SEEING HER HAS MADE ME.
I KNOW YOU ONLY WANT ME TO BE HAPPY...
...AT ANY COST.

FATHER! NO!
CAPTURING YOU, CREATING A RUELLE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TAME ANY MONSTER
KILLING ISHTAR TO PUT FALAN ON THE THRONE OF PHELIOSTA
IT'S ALL DONE IN FALAN'S NAME!
NOW DO YOU GET IT?
FOR THE SAKE OF HIS ILLICIT LOVE
HE FOLLOWS MY ORDERS..

ILLSAIDE
...
WHY?
...
FATHER

Act.15
I NEED YOU TO PROMISE THAT EVEN IF
MY FATHER DID SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY HORRIBLE TO YOU .
YOU WOULDN'T KILL HIM.
I W-WANT YOU TO KILL MY FATHER!

FALAN...
AAAAAAAAH!
FALAN!

吸血遊戯
シーゼネス
東領篇
Act.15

SOON, ALL WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU! KEEP US ALL IN ONE PIECE!

!!

すっ
THAT SAID, I'M NOT GOING TO PRETEND I DIDN'T ENJOY THAT
KICKING THE CRAP OUT OF JENED FEELS GREAT!
WHO KNEW?
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
AND IT SEEMS TO HAVE BROUGHT FALAN AND I CLOSER THAN EVER BEFORE
I KNOW SHE'S RIGHT. BUT LOVE'S NEVER FELT SO
ILLSAIDE!
STOP IT, YOU IDIOT! FALAN DIDN'T REALLY MEAN THAT!
.....

ILLSAIDE!!
I ONLY WANTED YOU TO BE HAPPY, FALAN.
ALL THE .
...ALL THE TERRIBLE THINGS I DID, I DID THEM ALL FOR YOU!
OH! FALAN!!
ダッ

I AM SO SCREWED
THIS GUY'S GONNA WIPE HIS ASS WITH ME
WITHOUT HOLY MAGIC OR THE MOTHER OF ALL RUELLE'S, I DON'T STAND A CHANCE MAN, IF YUJINN COULD SEE ME NOW
ALL RIGHT, YOU COCKY BASTARD, I'LL ADMIT IT, I SHOULD HAVE PAID ATTENTION WHEN YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT ALL THIS STUFF!
フッ

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. ISHTAR'S ALONE IN THERE, AND THAT'S NEVER A GOOD THING.
SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD COULDN'T BE MORE THAN TWO OR THREE DOZEN OF THEM.
HELL, I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR HER UNCLE
AND THOSE MONSTERS I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE MONSTERS

WAIT A DARN MINUTE--- THAT SWORD'S A RUELLE!
OF COURSE, I'D BE BETTER IF I WAS ON THE OTHER END OF IT...
HOW COULD HE
TREASON! MY OWN SON A TRAITOR!
TRAITOR!
TRAITOR!!

AND WHEN HE STARTED DROOLING OVER FALAN
I SHOULD HAVE HUNG HIS DAMN HEAD ON MY WALL...
I KNEW HE HAD GOTTEN TOO DANGEROUS! I SHOULD HAVE RID MYSELF OF HIM AFTER
ALL IS DONE OF HIM!
GORGEN!

YOU !DIOT! YOU'RE TO BLAME FOR ALL THIS!
YOU SHOULD HAVE CUT DOWN ILLSAIDE WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE!
LORD JENED! WHAT HAPPENED? YOU LOOK TERRIBLE!
WHAT HAPPENED?! HAVE YOU NOT NOTICED THE ARMY OF MONSTERS RAVAGING MY CASTLE?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? CUT DOWN THE GENERAL?
ざわ・
I'M SORRY, LORD
I HAVE NO EXCUSE
NOW, WHERE'S SHARLEN?!
I MEAN... UM.. DIAAGE?!
LAST I SAW, HE WAS IN THE GARDEN, MY LORD FIGHTING WITH SIR DARRES!

I, UH .. I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO BOTHER THEM WITH ALL THAT
NO!
I'M NOT GOING TO DROP IT! ILLSA DE CAN'T GO AROUND HURTING PEOPLE AND JUSTIFYING IT BY SAYING HE'S DOING IT FOR FALAN! SHE'S SWEET AND ALL, BUT SHE'S NOT THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.
HEH, HEH IT'S NOTHING! WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE.
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT, ILLSA DE?! THANKS TO YOU, MY SISTER HAD HIS HEART BROKEN! UH, HER HEART BROKEN, I MEAN.
I SAID LET IT GO, ALREADY!!

.....
ILLSAIDE...
..I'M SYMPATHETIC TO ANYONE WHO'S HAD TO LIVE WITH MY UNCLE, BUT THAT DOESN'T EXCUSE WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
AND ..
..I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR TRICKING DU!
DID YOU EVER THINK THAT HE--I MEAN, SHE--MIGHT HAVE FEELINGS TOO? HE WON'T EAT! AND HIS COAT'S GOTTEN ALL DULL AND UGLY
ISHTAR!

!?
ISHTAR!!
DU WASN'T COMPLETELY HONEST WITH YOU EITHER!
SHE'S NOT REALLY MY SISTER SHE'S MY CAT!
AND SHE'S A MAN!
SHE'S MY WIDDLE CUDDLY WUDDLY MAN-KITTEN' AREN'T YOU, DUZIE?!
AND REMEMBER, ILLSAIDE
EVEN THOUGH SHE MAY BE THE CENTER OF YOUR WORLD

LOOKS LIKE I'M AN EXPERT AT DESTRUCTION...
I KNOW THAT'S NOT WORTH VERY MUCH I DIDN'T MEAN TO TOY WITH YOUR FEELINGS I'VE DESTROYED YOUR TRUST AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT COULD NEVER BE FIXED WITH A SIMPLE APOLOGY
I I'M SORRY.
.....
THAT'S OKAY...

WHILE SOME ARE ANOTHER KIND OF BEAST ENTIRELY...
..THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO CARE ABOUT YOU.
FALAN'S JUST THE START.
AND MY GUESS IS THAT ONLY A FEW OF THEM ARE CROSS-DRESSING KITTENS.

ILLSAIDS HAS BETRAYED US!!
QUIT FOOLING AROUND WITH THAT IDIOT...
...AND HELP ME FIND MY TRAITOR SON! HE IS TO BE EXECU--
...IT'S HIS ATTITUDE THAT I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH
SHARLEN!

JENED!!

SORRY BUT BETWEEN THE SUPERNATURAL SPEED AND IMMORTALITY, I THOUGHT THE ODDS WERE SLIGHTLY STACKED IN YOUR FAVOR
NOW, LET'S FINISH THIS..

OKAY, EVIL, SCHEMING UNCLE IS DEAD AND EVERYONE'S UPSET I'M ABOUT TO DIE AND NO ONE EVEN SEEMS TO NOTICE' FINE! IF THAT'S HOW IT'S GONNA BE
!?

VERY GOOD, HUMAN
AM THE LORD OF THE SEA KING OF THE WAR-TRIBE AND THE WAR TO RULE THE OCEAN OF VERARIA!
I AM ORDERING YOU, MY COMRADES, TO CEASE YOUR FEASTING AND RETURN TO OUR HOME!

AS IF I'D LET A WEAPON AS POWERFUL AS ILLSAIDE FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE HUMANS... OR THE CLAWS OF THESE MONSTERS!
I AM HIS COMRADE IN THE TRUE SENSE OF THE WORD.

THOSE WHO WERE IMPRISONED IN THIS CASTLE...
WERE SET FREE BY A HUMAN WHO SAW THE INJUSTICE OF YOUR PLIGHT!

MY LORD AS YOUR TRUSTED LIEUTENANT, IT IS MY DUTY TO PROTECT YOU
TO THAT END I AM A FREE AGENT

HE DIED AT THE HANDS OF YOUR LIEUTENANT...
NO!
OH, GOD!
...WHILE ORDERING YOUR DEATH THE ORDER WAS NEVER COMPLETELY GIVEN, SIR...
...AND THEREFORE, CANNOT BE CARRIED OUT
FATHER!

AND HIS NAME WILL BE ENTERED IN THE BOOK OF MARTYRS
LIEUTENANT GORGEN WILL RECEIVE A PROPER MILITARY BURIAL. HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN WILL BE PROVIDED FOR

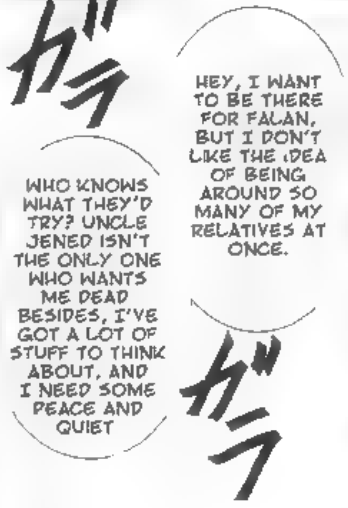
KILL... ILLSAIDE?

ガラガラガラ

AUNT RAMIA ORDERED HIM TO BE LA NAAN'S OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AT UNCLE JENED'S FUNERAL

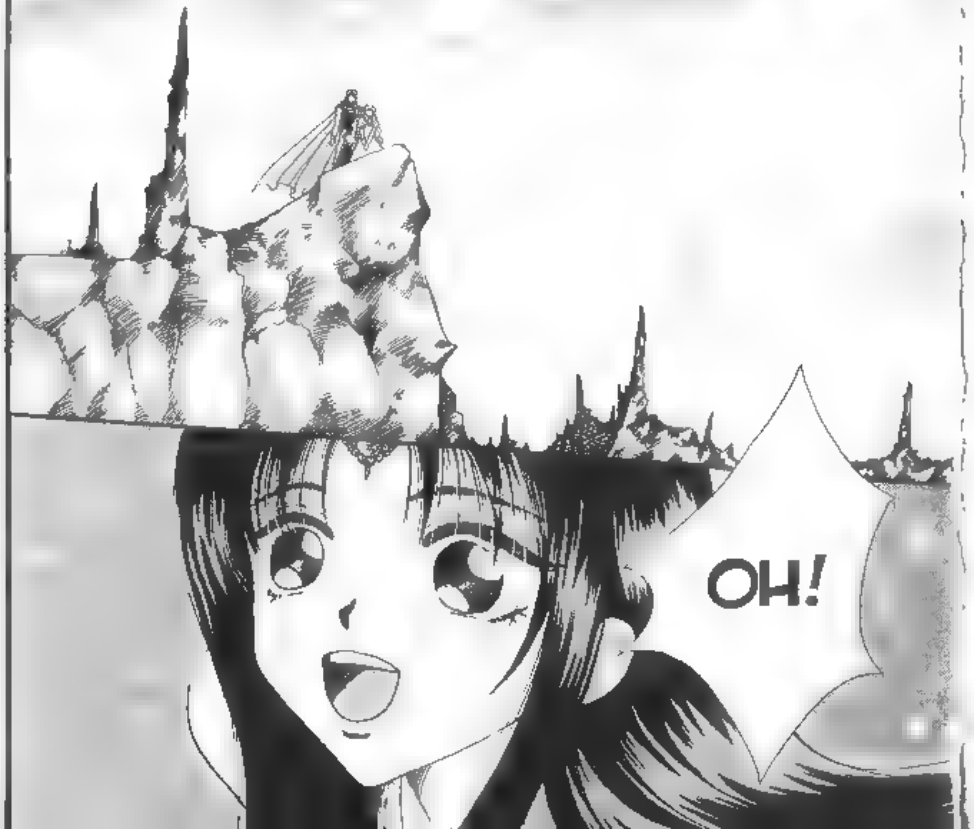
ガラガラ
NOT THAT I'LL MISS HIM, BUT WHY'D WE LEAVE VORD IN CI XENETH?

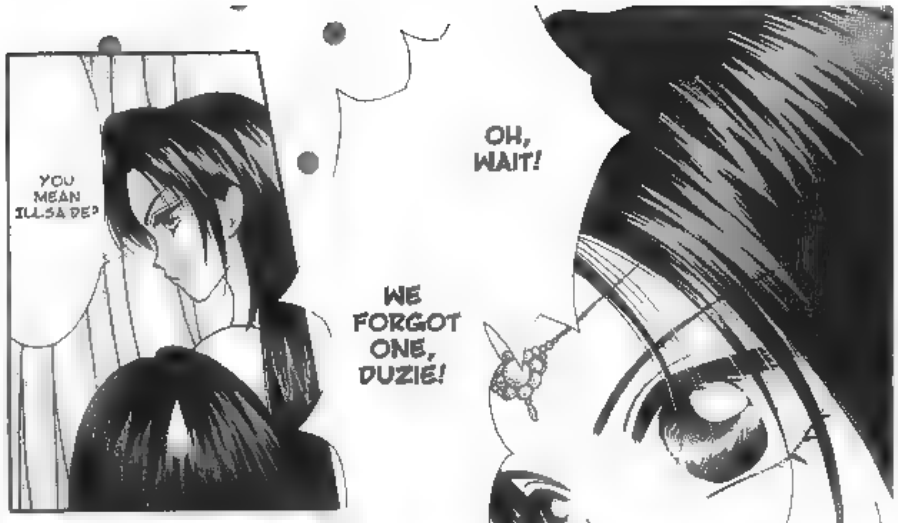
CLASSY
AND SINCE HE WAS ALREADY REPRESENTING LA NAAN, I ASKED IF HE'D MIND REPRESENTING US AS WELL.


ガラ
WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'D TRY? UNCLE JENED ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO WANTS ME DEAD BESIDES, I'VE GOT A LOT OF STUFF TO THINK ABOUT, AND I NEED SOME PEACE AND QUIET
HEY, I WANT TO BE THERE FOR FALAN, BUT I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF BEING AROUND SO MANY OF MY RELATIVES AT ONCE.
ガラ

にっ
FIRST OFF, THERE'S THE MERARIM WAR
...AND THE TRUTH ABOUT RUELLES
ANYWAYS, DUZIE...
I'M SURE IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT YOU GOT SOME OF MY UNCLE'S BLOOD
AND THE FUTURE OF CI XENETH
...AND THE MONSTERS
SO... WAS HE PHELIOS?
ぶるぶる
SO, LET'S SEE NOW. THAT MEANS THAT YOU'VE TRIED ALL THE DESCENDENTS N CI XENETH
FALAN, UNCLE JENED...
IT WOULD STINK NOT BEING ABLE TO KILL PHELIOS BECAUSE HE'S ALREADY DEAD
NO? WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF

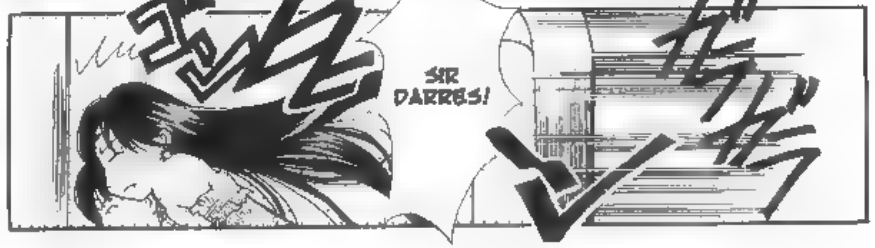
LADY ISHTAR! LOOK UP THERE!
YO, DARRES! YOO HOO! HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
SORRY!
DON'T TELL ME THIS IS YOUR NEW WAY OF SPANKING ME!


OH!


YOU MEAN ILLSA DE?
OH, WAIT!
WE FORGOT ONE, DUZIE!

HE DOESN'T SEEM TOO CONCERNED

YEAH NEXT TIME.
WELL, UH... WE'LL GET HIM NEXT TIME, RIGHT?

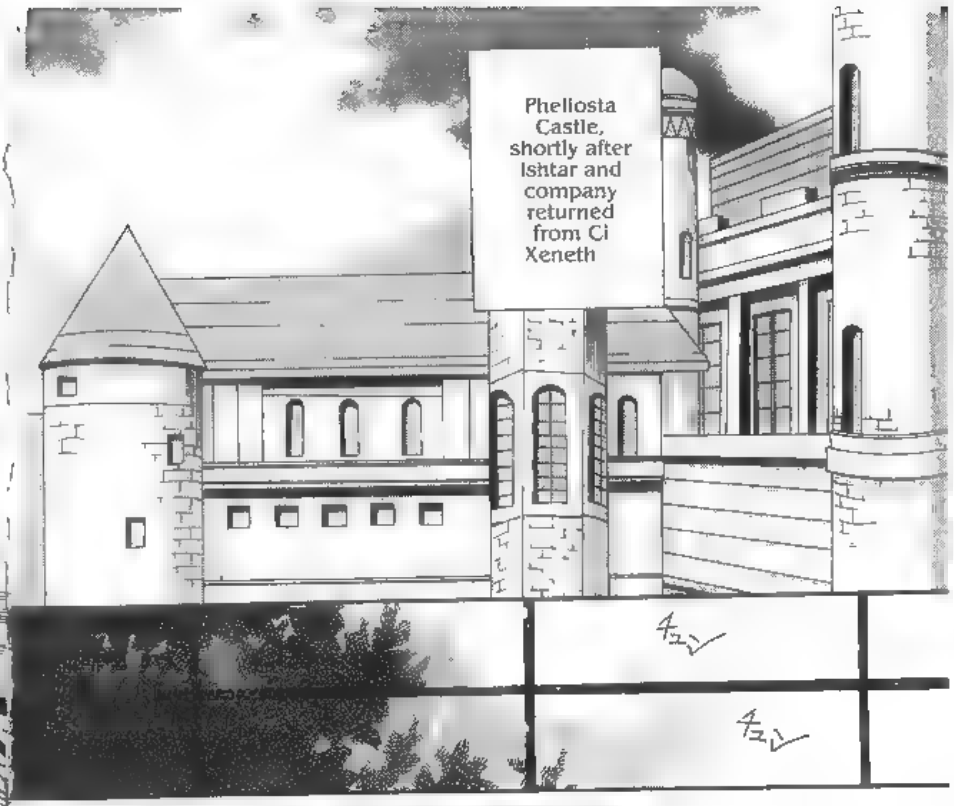

SIR DARRES!

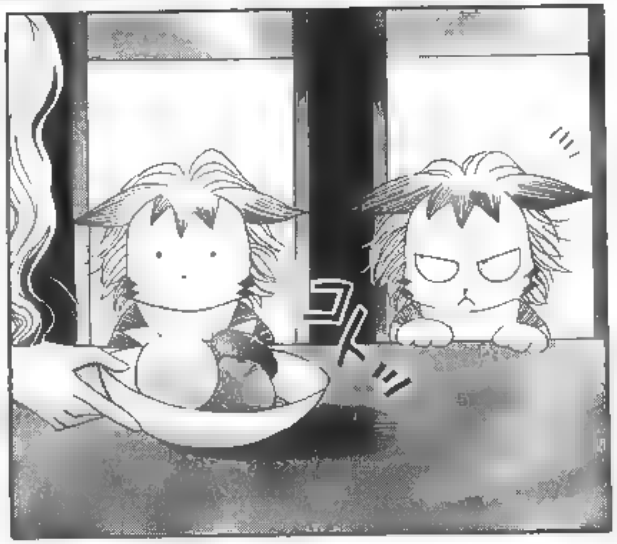
FALAN!
ファラン
THIS PLACE LOOKS FAMILIAR
OH, WAIT A MINUTE...
THIS IS WHERE I ENDED UP WHEN I USED THE LILKE!

I WONDER...
...WHY WE TELEPORTED HERE.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!

Vampire Game: Side Story
HEART

THIS IS WHERE FALAN AND I USED TO PLAY!
FALAN!
TAKE CARE OF CI XENETH! AND ILLSAIDE, TAKE CARE OF FALAN! WE'LL SEE YOU SOON!
東領篇
FIN





IN MY LAST LIFE, EVERYTHING WAS JUST SO DREARY. THE THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT DIE FROM SHEER BOREDOM HAD OCCURRED TO ME...

!!
はっ
.....
LOOK, ISHTAR, THERE SN'T A PRECEDENT FOR IT THE ROYAL FAMILY JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE THAT KIND OF A RISK! WHAT IF THEY COULDN'T PRODUCE A VIABLE HEIR TO THE THRONE?
THE PEOPLE WOULD NEVER STAND FOR IT END OF DISCUSSION.
DARRES, YOU SMART BOY! I COULD KISS YOU!
PRINCESS ISHTAR!
LISTEN TO YOURSELF. A BROTHER AND SISTER CANNOT GET MARRIED IT'S JUST WRONG! AND IT GIVES ME A SERIOUS CASE OF THE WILLIES.
AND BESIDES, THE LAW FORBIDS IT!
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS! THEY'RE BOTH MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF PHELIOSTA! THEY MAKE THE LAWS!
.....
ALL OF US ROYALS ARE SO INBRED WE'RE PRETTY MUCH HALF-SIBLINGS ANYWAY, SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?!
I JUST DON'T SEE WHY--
WILL YOU TWO CALM DOWN?! DO YOU WANT ILLSAIDE AND FALAN TO HEAR YOU? THAT'S WHAT IT SEEMS LIKE, CONSIDERING HOW LOUD YOU'RE BOTH BEING.

YUJINN!
DIDN'T MY AUNT SONIA MARRY SOMEONE OUTSIDE THE ROYAL FAMILY?
.....!!
I USED TO THINK THAT EVERYONE WAS MY PUPPET. MY TOY.
I BELIEVE SHE DID
SHE ALSO STARTED A RIOT IN THE PROCESS THAT NEARLY COST HER THE THRONE AND RESULTED IN A KINGDOM-WIDE BAN ON EGGS AND TOMATOES.
THERE IS MORE AT STAKE IN THESE SITUATIONS THAN YOUR FANCIES, PRINCESS
IT'S THE PEOPLE THAT ARE THE PROBLEM.
THERE ARE PROBABLY PLENTY OF PEOPLE MARRIED TO THEIR HALF-SISTERS, THEY JUST KEEP IT A SECRET!
SO, AS LONG AS NO ONE FINDS OUT, THERE'D BE NO PROBLEM WITH FALAN AND ILLSAIDE, RIGHT
?
?
PLEASE TELL ME SHE'S KIDDING.

GRRR!
A GENERAL?
AND A QUEEN?
SO...IF, SAY, A GENERAL HAD SOME HIGH-RANKING SPONSORSHIP, HE COULD MARRY A QUEEN, RIGHT?
I THINK I'M ONTO SOMETHING HERE..

.....!?
ISHTAR!
..I CAN MARRY SOMEONE OUTSIDE THE PHELIOSTA ROYAL FAMILY!
BUT THAT JUST MEANS IF I CONVINCE THE PEOPLE, AND MAYBE BAN SOME PRODUCE...
.BUT IT WOULD REALLY DEPEND ON HIS POSITION AND SPONSORSHIP
YES, I SUPPOSE

IT WOULDN'T MATTER THAT MUCH IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY KIDS
ISHTAR, I CAN'T

BUT WE CAN'T PRETEND FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES. WE COULD NEVER HIDE SOMETHING LIKE THAT IT WOULD COME OUT, SOONER OR LATER
BUT AT THE SAME TIME

SURE I DO MORE THAN EVER

WHAT'S WRONG, FALAN?
YOU STILL LOVE ILLSAIDE, DON'T YOU?

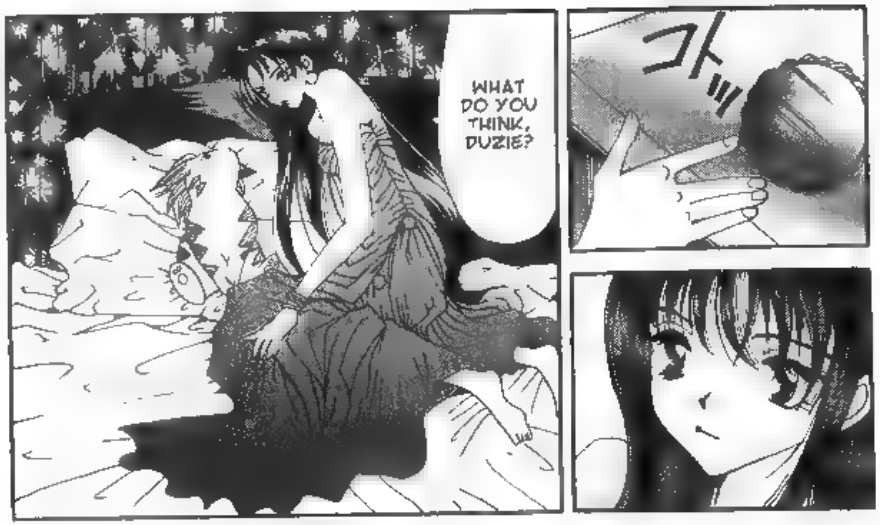
BUT LOOKING AT HIS FACE JUST MADE ME HAVE TO CRY.
I USED TO SIT, BROODING THROUGH THE NIGHT.

...WHY DID I BOTHER?

THIS IS LIFE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE, AFTER ALL. THERE ARE NO SECOND CHANCES
MAKE SURE THIS IS TRULY WHAT YOUR HEART'S TELLING YOU TO DO.
AND IF IT IS, KNOW THAT YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE MY SUPPORT.
FALAN.. ARE YOU SURE? IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU WANT?
NOW I JUST NEED TO CONVINCE MY PEOPLE THAT ILLSAIDE..
..IS THE LEGITIMATE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF CI XENETH.
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THOSE DAYS THEY'LL ALWAYS HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE N MY HEART
AND IN ILLSAIDE'S TOO.
..WE ALSO CAN'T HIDE OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER SO WE DECIDED THAT THE BEST THING...
WOULD BE TO GO THROUGH LIFE AS BROTHER AND SISTER
CONSIDERING HE'S HALF MONSTER, IT'S GONNA BE A TOUGH SELL

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK I'M THINKING MY KITTY MIGHT'VE LUCKED OUT!
ボワン
ENOUGH! YOU KNOW, ISHTAR, YOU REALLY NEED TO LEARN TO MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
YOU'RE MEDDLING IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.
WE AREN'T YOUR DOLLS, YOU KNOW!
ILLSADE IS STILL SINGLE! AND HE'S GONNA BE KING OF CI XENETH! NOT A BAD CATCH, PROVIDED YOU DON'T MIND BECOMING THE VAMPIRE QUEEN DUZELL.

THANKS, ISH! I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU...


WHAT DO YOU THINK, DUZIE?
コトッ

ONE TO TALK.
THERE WAS A
TIME WHEN I
VIEWED THE
ENTIRE WORLD

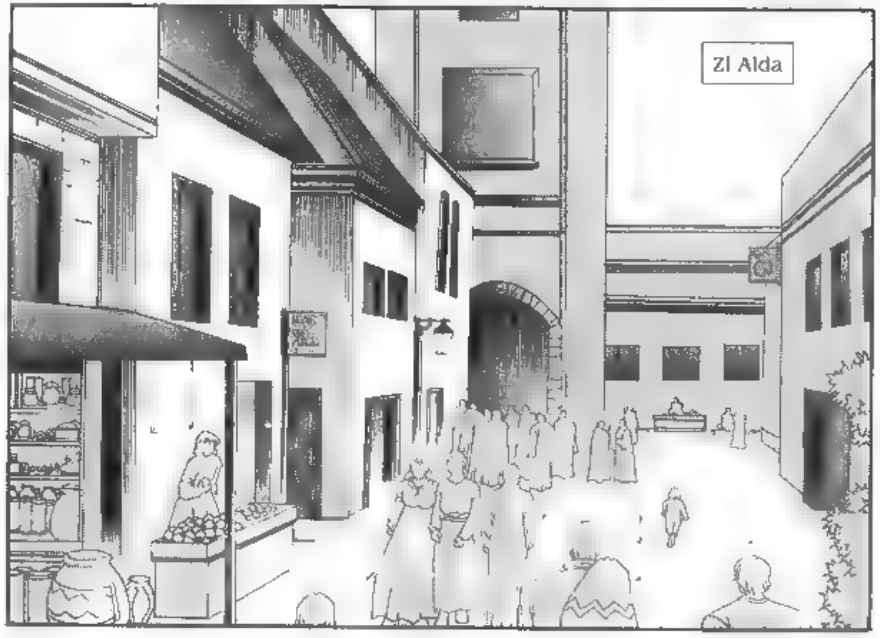
IT'S BEEN A FEW MONTHS SINCE WE RETURNED FROM CI XENETH
AND ABOUT HALF A YEAR SINCE MY RESUR RECTION
THE PASSING OF TIME IS FINALLY BEGINNING TO RESTORE MY FORMER STRENGTH
THE TIME NEARS WHEN I SHALL HAVE MY REVENGE ON THE CURSED PHELIOS.
PROVIDED I CAN FIND THE LITTLE SHIT, OF COURSE.
Act.1
EVERY PERSON WAS JUST A PAWN FOR ME TO PLAY WITH. . OR FEED FROM
AND I'LL TELL YOU. . THAT'S ONE TOUGH HABIT TO BREAK.
FIN

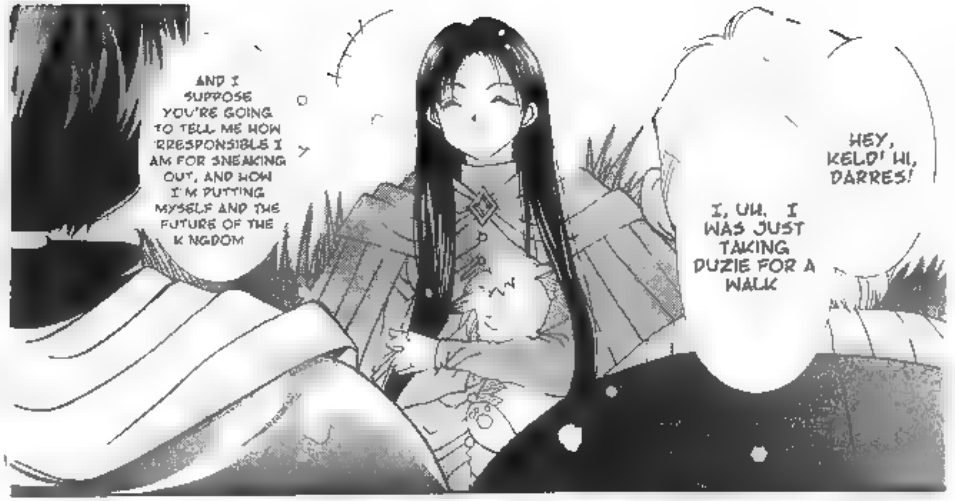
吸血遊戯
南領篇
Act.1

LADY ISHTAR!!
LADY ISHTAR!
WHERE IS SHE?!
COULD SHE BE PHELIOS' REINCARNATION?
ぱちん

AND WHEN I LOOK IN HER EYES, I SEE PHELIOS..
...IS THAT HIS SPIRIT WILL BE REBORN IN THE BODY OF ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS.
ALL I REALLY KNOW ABOUT PHELIOS' NEXT COMING...
WHEN I TRIED HER BLOOD, IT WAS SO NEW TO THIS WORLD. COULD I HAVE MADE A MISTAKE?

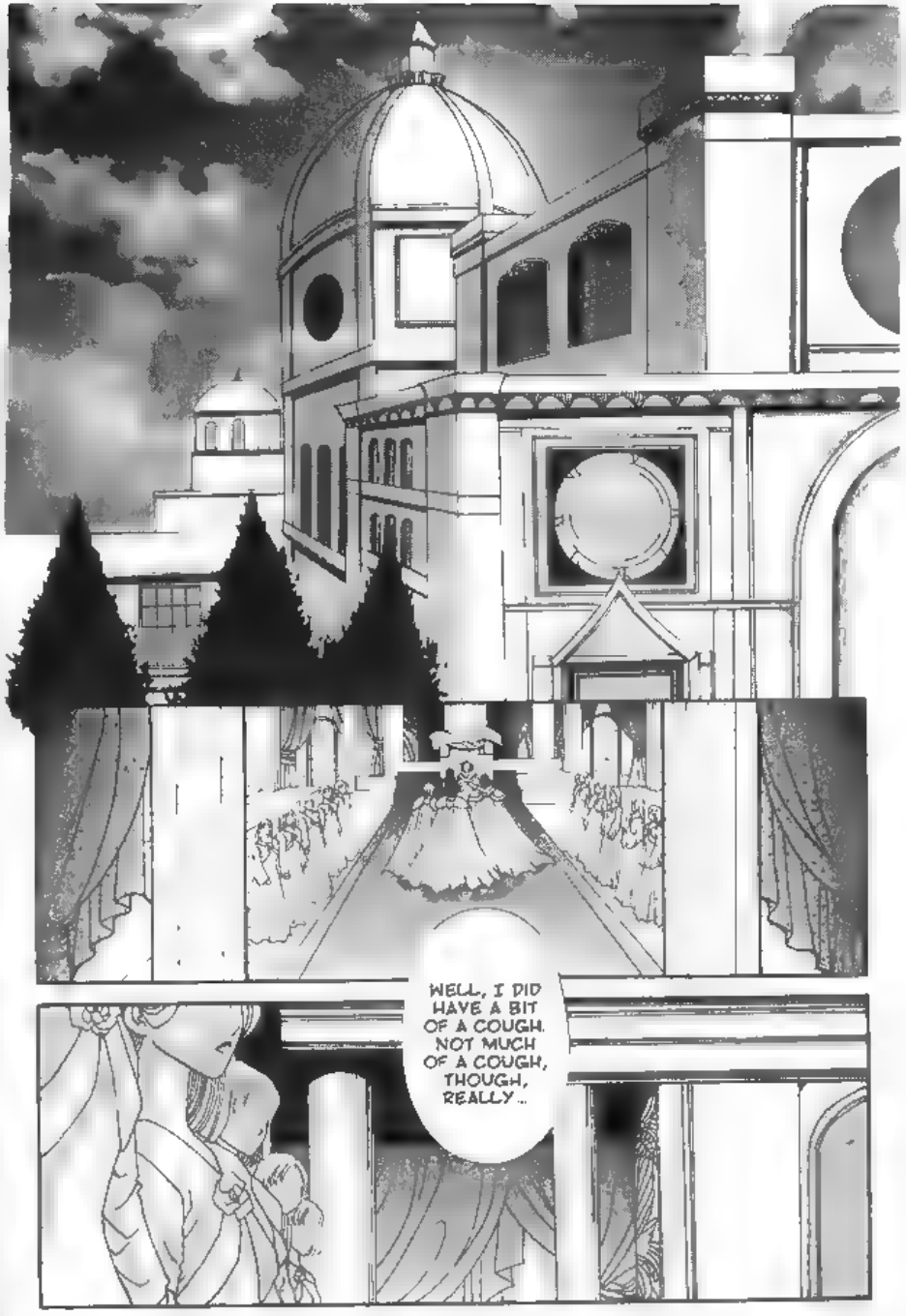
!!
AUNT SONIA? WE'VE GOT TO GO SEE HER!


Zi Alda


AND I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME HOW IRRESPONSIBLE I AM FOR SNEAKING OUT, AND HOW I'M PUTTING MYSELF AND THE FUTURE OF THE K NGDOM
I, UH, I WAS JUST TAKING DUZIE FOR A WALK
HEY, KELD' HI, DARRES!

GIVE IT A REST, ISHTAR THAT'S NOT WHY WE'RE HERE.
YOUR AUNT SONIA HAS FALLEN SERIOUSLY ILL. HER HEALERS FEAR THE WORST
MY LADY..
A COURIER ARRIVED THIS MORNING FROM ZI ALDA.

MAYBE SIR KELD JUST MISUNDERSTOOD HE DOES WORRY SO I'M SURE HE S JUST BE NG OVERLY PROTECTIVE
I'M NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER, AND I'M STARTING TO FEEL THE PASSING OF TIME
OR EVEN THAT I HAD A COLD, FOR THAT MATTER .
I WROTE HIM RECENTLY AND MADE MENTION OF THAT BUT I CERTAINLY DIDN'T SAY I WAS DYING
.....


WELL, I DID HAVE A BIT OF A COUGH. NOT MUCH OF A COUGH, THOUGH, REALLY..

AND OCCASIONALLY HE GETS TOTALLY CONFUSED AND STARTS THINKING HE'S A WET NURSE NAMED JUANITA!
OH, YES. IT'S TERRIBLE!
FIVE MINUTES AFTER WE'RE DONE EATING, HE'LL ASK THE MAIDS WHERE HIS DINNER S. HE'S ALWAYS GETTING LOST IN THE CASTLE
PRINCESS ISHTAR!!

OF COURSE, DEAR! NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIER!

WELL, AT ANY RATE, IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE WE'VE SEEN YOU
WHY DON'T WE TURN THIS MISUNDERSTANDING INTO A CHANCE TO CATCH UP?!

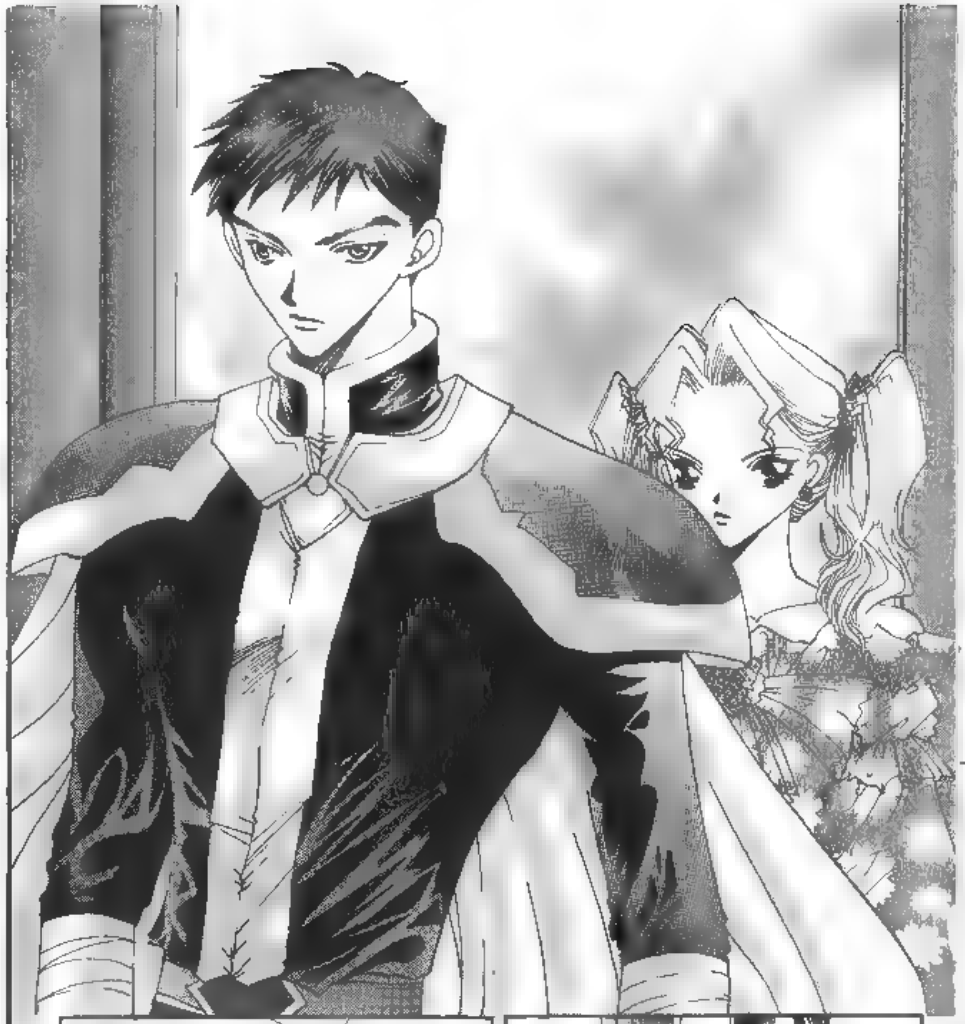
WHEW!

KELD' THAT SENILE OLD FART TRICKED ME!
I'VE BEEN HAD!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE HASN'T GIVEN UP! OR THAT HE WENT THIS FAR

I'M SORRY, AUNT SONIA, IT'S JUST THAT KELD'S BEEN--
WELL, I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT TO TELL YOU... HE'S GOING SENILE!

OH, MY!
HE PROBABLY GOT YOU MIXED UP WITH SOMEONE ELSE!
SIR KELD'S GOING SENILE?

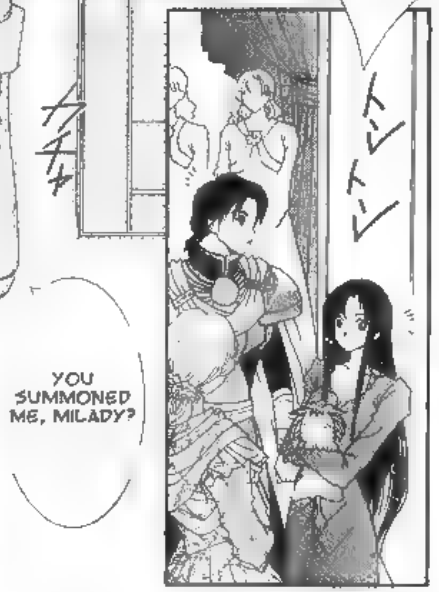
LADY ISHTAR? IS SOMETH NG WRONG?



OH, SPLENDID! YOU'RE HERE!

.....!?

OH, YOU MEAN YUUJEL?
BY THE WAY, AUNT SONIA...
...WHERE'S THAT PIG OF A SON OF YOURS?
PRINCESS ISHTAR!! REMEMBER YOUR MANNERS!


YOU SUMMONED ME, MILADY?

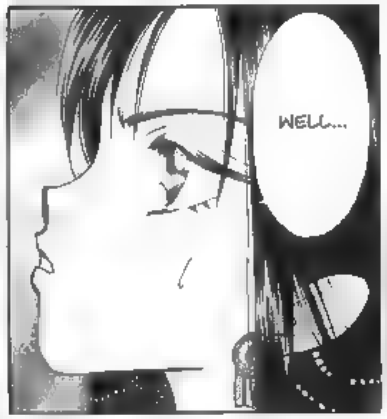
SO, DUZIE...
..MY ONLY REAL BLOOD RELATIONS HERE...
ARE AUNT SONIA AND THAT DISGUSTING BOY OF HERS, YUUJEL.
WAIT A SECOND, DUZIE!
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT ABOUT AUNT SONIA...
ANYHOW, NEITHER OF THESE WINNERS SOUND LIKE THEY COULD BE PHELIOS WHY DON'T WE JUST GET OUT OF HERE?
YOU KNOW, I REALLY THINK YOU ROYALS SHOULD AT LEAST TRY MARRYING OUTSIDE THE FAMILY EVERY NOW AND AGAIN. WHO KNOWS? YOU MIGHT LIKE IT
A FRAIL OLD WOMAN AND HER SLOB OF A SON
HE'S A GENERAL? HE'S SO YOUNG...
THIS IS ASHLEY, GENERAL OF THE ZI ALDA ARMY AND MINISTER OF MILITARY STRATEGY
AND THIS IS HIS LOVELY WIFE, LEENE

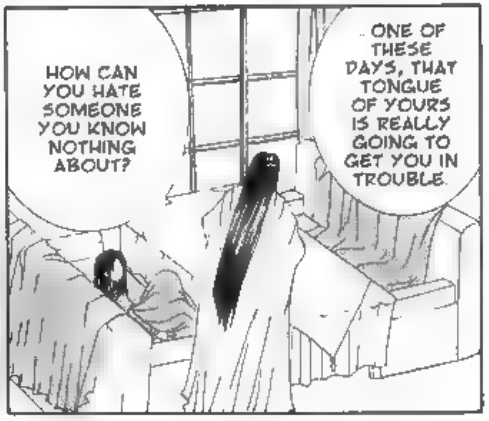
OKAY, THAT'S JUST NASTY
IT'S NOT JUST YUU JEL. SEE, WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, I USED TO THINK ABOUT KELD...
THE WAY I THINK ABOUT DARRES
AND NOW HE'S UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS AGAIN. I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. YOU KNOW, I REALLY HATE HIM TOO.
.....

WELL...
HE'S YOUR COUSIN AND HE PROBABLY HAS A HIGH LAUNDRY BILL. WHAT MORE DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

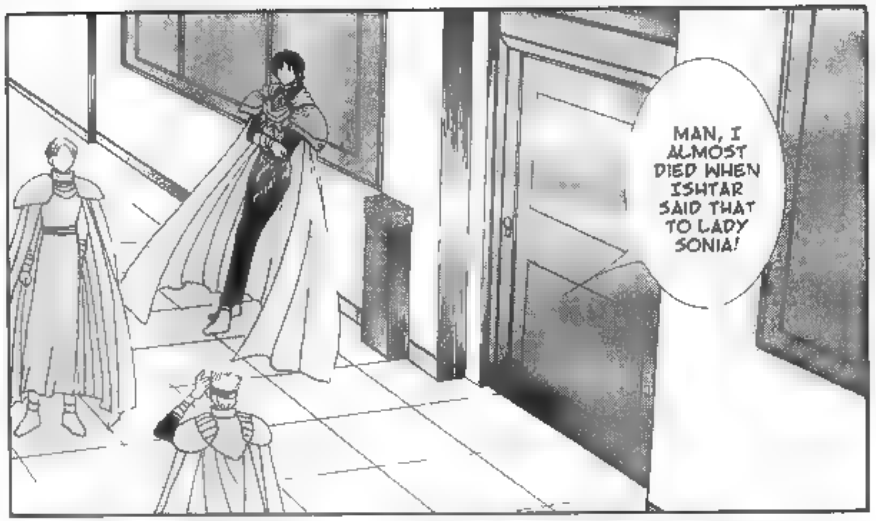
THE TRUTH IS THAT I REALLY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM
..BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT PIG COUSIN OF MINE, YUUJEL, SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN OUT OF TOWN EVERY TIME I'VE STOPPED BY.

YOU KNOW, DARRES IS RIGHT.
I'VE JUST NEVER LIKED HIM, AND THAT'S MY WAY OF EXPRESSING IT. A BIT TOO HARSH, YOU THINK?
OH, HE'S NOT A LITERAL SLOB.


WELL...


HOW CAN YOU HATE SOMEONE YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT?
..ONE OF THESE DAYS, THAT TONGUE OF YOURS IS REALLY GOING TO GET YOU IN TROUBLE.

EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS..
SO CAPTAIN...
..WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS YUUJEL GUY? IS HE AS STUPID AS LADY ISHTAR SAYS HE IS?
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HER. THE LAST TIME PRINCESS ISHTAR MET LORD YUUJEL...
..SHE WAS ONLY SIX YEARS OLD.
THAT'S AN AWFULLY LONG TIME TO CARRY A GRUDGE EVEN FOR SOMEONE AS SHALLOW AS ISHTAR.
OR S THERE SOMETHING ELSE GOING ON?
SIX YEARS OLD?
I HAD TAKEN MY EYES OFF OF HER FOR A FEW MOMENTS
..SO I DIDN'T ACTUALLY SEE WHAT HAPPENED


MAN, I ALMOST DIED WHEN ISHTAR SAID THAT TO LADY SONIA!

YEAH, WE'RE LUCKY THAT LADY SONIA'S SUCH A NICE OLD LADY SHE JUST LET IT BLOW OVER.
IF THAT HAD BEEN LADY RAMIA, WE'D BE PICKING GRAVEL OUT OF OUR TEETH
Considering she don't like you, in particular, should be grateful

NOTHING LIKE PUTTING YOUR FOOT IN YOUR MOUTH, EH?
I'LL TELL YOU, IF I WAS LADY SONIA, I WOULD HAVE GIVEN ISHTAR A GOOD FOOT IN HER ASS!

.....

I DON'T KNOW, BUT I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HIM AGAIN!
IS IT JUST ME, OR DOES LORD YUUJEL SEEM UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING?
I HEAR THAT BOTH BARONESS LOIFA AND LADY SELIONA HAVE THEIR SCOUTS LOOKING FOR HIM.
I THINK THEY'D BE SEARCHING SO HARD IF THEY KNEW HE WAS BOINKING THEM BOTH?
HE'S STOPPED ATTENDING THE PALACE BALLS...

HMM. THAT WOULD MAKE HIM ABOUT 23 NOW.
I THINK HE WAS 13 YEARS OLD, AND HE COULDN'T HAVE CARED LESS.
ALL OF THEM.
HOWEVER, I REMEMBER THAT YUUJEL HAD PURPLE EYES AND THIS LONG SILVER HAIR THAT DROVE ALL THE LITTLE GIRLS WILD THEY ALL LIKED HIM.
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?
WELL...
DID OUR LITTLE QUEEN HAVE A CRUSH ON HIM?
Knights are warriors. They're specimens of masculinity. They can't go condemning themselves with the love lives of six-year-olds.

YOU KNOW..
...RIGHT ABOUT NOW I'M GLAD I SWORE OFF MEN.
MAN, IS THERE SOMEONE THIS GUY HASN'T SLEPT WITH?
I HAVE GOT TO MEET THIS GUY!
.....
.....
HE'S REALLY SOMETHING ELSE!
SHE DID SAY BARON TSOUM. DIDN'T SHE? THIS YUUJEL GUY REALLY DOES GET AROUND. ALL THE WAY AROUND, IT WOULD SEEM..
OH, IT GETS BETTER
BARON TSOUM AND CAPTAIN ZAIM HAVE THEIR PEOPLE LOOKING FOR HIM TOO! FOR..UM... THE SAME REASONS...
ISHTAR'S RIGHT. HE IS A PIG!
I KNOW! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?! LEENE! THE WIFE OF HIS BEST FRIEND! WHO WOULD'A THUNK IT?
BUT...
..THAT CAN'T BE WHAT'S BOTHERING YUUJEL! I'LL BET IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOU-KNOW-WHO!
!!

WOMAN?
SHE'S STILL A CHILD!
TRUE, SHE'S ONLY 15...
AND OF COURSE...
BUT IN FIVE YEARS SHE'LL BE 20, AND WOULD MAKE A STUNNING MATCH...
...FOR THE THEN 28-YEAR-OLD YUUJEL.

SO THAT'S HER?
YES
THAT'S THE FUTURE QUEEN OF PHELIOSTA?
OF COURSE, SHE DOESN'T COMPARE TO YOU...
...BUT SHE'S STILL QUITE A WOMAN, ISN'T SHE?

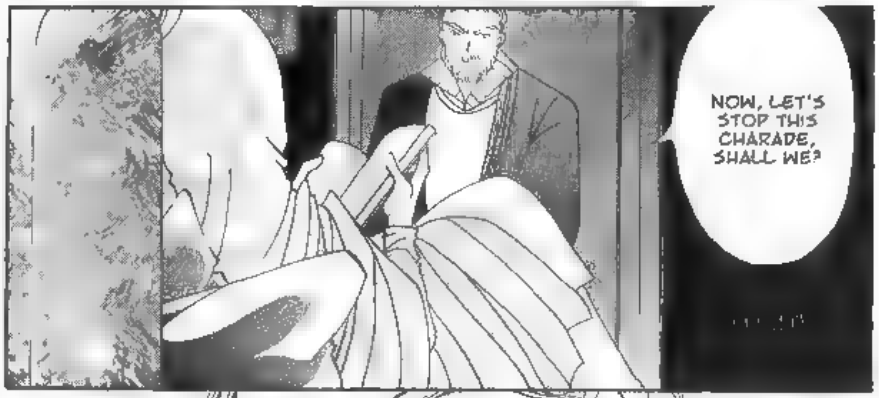
I'M SORRY IT'S JUST THAT SOMETIMES I DON'T KNOW WHO I CAN TRUST BUT I CAN TRUST YOU, DIAAGE, CAN'T I?
OF COURSE YOU CAN, LEENE.

...IF HE WERE TO WED LADY ISHTAR..
LORD YUUJEL WOULD BECOME KING OF PHELIOSTA.
STOP IT, DIAAGE!

YES. I'LL HELP YOU, LADY LEENE WHEN WE'RE THROUGH, I'LL HAVE HIM EATING OUT OF YOUR ADORABLE LITTLE HANDS.

I'M WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO GET HIM.
I...
I WANT HIM. I NEED HIM! I WON'T BE AT PEACE UNTIL I POSSESS HIS HEART... HIS BODY... HIS VERY SOUL!
THAT'S RIGHT
ANYTHING.
YOU'LL HELP ME, WON'T YOU?
DIAAGE?

...WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, EXACTLY HOW DUMB DO YOU THINK I AM? YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO FALL FOR THAT? IT MAY HAVE WORKED ON ISHTAR BUT I'M INSULTED IF YOU HONESTLY BELIEVED IT WOULD WORK ON ME
SIR KELD..


NOW, LET'S STOP THIS CHARADE, SHALL WE?

Phelosta Castle

THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE! YOU MUST GO SEE HER N Z ALDA. THIS MAY BE THE LAST CHANCE YOU HAVE TO--
DON'T YOU CARE?!
YOU'RE STILL HERE?! D DN'T YOU HEAR ME? I SAID YOUR MOTHER'S VERY ILL!
HORRIBLY, FRIGHTFULLY, TERRIBLY ILL!

ALL RIGHT, YUJINN. OR SHOULD I SAY...
...SIR YUUJEL.
I WAS WRONG TO TRY TO DECEIVE YOU
BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, I ONLY HAVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF QUEEN ISHTAR AT HEART!

WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, I USED TO THINK ABOUT KELD THE WAY I THINK ABOUT DARRES.
I NEVER REALLY TOLD THEM I FELT THAT WAY.
..BUT I THOUGHT THEY WERE PEOPLE I COULD ADMIRE.

THE OLDER I GOT, THE MORE I BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT KELD DIDN'T REALLY CARE ABOUT ME.
ALL HE CARED ABOUT WAS THE QUEEN I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HE CARES MORE ABOUT IMAGE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. ESPECIALLY WHEN IT CONCERNS ME!
吸血遊戯
ザ・アルク
南領篇
Act.2

I KNEW I WAS IMPORTANT TO THEM I KNEW I WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD TO THEM
OR SO I THOUGHT
BECAUSE, NO MATTER WHAT

IN FACT, IT'S HIS GOOD HEART...
THAT MAKES HIM SUCH AN IDIOT
.....

...IT SEEMS LIKE DARRES IS THE ONE WHO'S MOST CONCERNED WITH YOUR BEHAVIOR. HE'S THE ONE WHO SEES YOU AS A SYMBOL--
ISHTAR, PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS GOING TO SEE YOU MORE AS A SYMBOL THAN A PERSON GET USED TO IT
YOU'RE A PRINCESS IT'S PART OF WHO YOU ARE BESIDES...
YOU'RE WRONG!
DARRES CARES ABOUT ME DEEPLY AND NOT JUST ME
BUT KELD, KRAI, JILL AND JUST ABOUT ANYONE HE'S EVER MET!
AND YES, THAT INCLUDES YOU, DUZIE! BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WANT YOU TO STOP BITING HIM
I MAY GIVE HIM A HARD TIME, AND HE DOES HAVE A TENDENCY TO EMBARRASS HIMSELF EVERY NOW AND THEN, BUT DARRES IS A GOOD MAN.

HE WANTS TO SET ME UP WITH YUUJEL! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?! UGH! WHERE'S YOUR LITTER BOX, DUZIE? I THINK I'M GONNA HURL!
AND IT GETS EVEN WORSE...
I'M HIS MEAL TICKET! THAT'S THE ONLY REASON HE PUTS UP WITH ME. HE'S BEEN RIDING MY COATTAILS SINCE THE DAY I WAS BORN.

YUUJEL?!
WELL...
...THERE'S SOMETHING I DIDN'T MENTION
DUZIE
REMEMBER WHEN I MENTIONED THAT AUNT SOFIA MARRIED SOMEONE OUTSIDE OF OUR FAMILY?

BUT KELD... KELD IS DIFFERENT
I GUESS I CAN SEE THAT.
GRRRR!
Yummy food

IT LETS PEOPLE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIM. AND I SHOULD KNOW. I'M ONE OF THEM
Thinking really hard.
HE'S GOT HIS OWN AGENDA AS FAR AS HE'S CONCERNED, EVERYONE FITS INTO ONE OF TWO CATEGORIES YOU'RE EITHER "USEFUL," OR YOU'RE "TOENAIL FUNGUS" AND GUESS WHICH CATEGORY WE FIT INTO, DUZIE!

..PART OF THE ROYAL FAMILY
Pheliosta Castle
LORD YUUJEL
!!
MY WARDEN, SIR KELD...
..IS RELATED TO THE GUY WHO MARRIED MY AUNT!!
THAT WAY WE'LL BECOME
AND EVER SINCE THEN..
..HE'S BEEN SCHEMING TO GET ME TO TIE THE KNOT WITH YUUJEL.

I KNOW, KELD
AND KNOWING MAKES IT THAT MUCH WORSE.
THE POSSIBILITY OF A UNION WITH ISHTAR? IT WOULD BE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO OUR--I MEAN YOUR HOUSE PLEASE JUST CONSIDER T FOR ALL OF OUR SAKES
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST ENTERTAIN
I PROBABLY DON'T HAVE TO POINT THIS OUT TO YOU, BUT LADY ISHTAR ISN'T THE CHILD SHE WAS. SHE'S BLOSSOMED INTO QUITE A FETCHING YOUNG WOMAN.
バタン

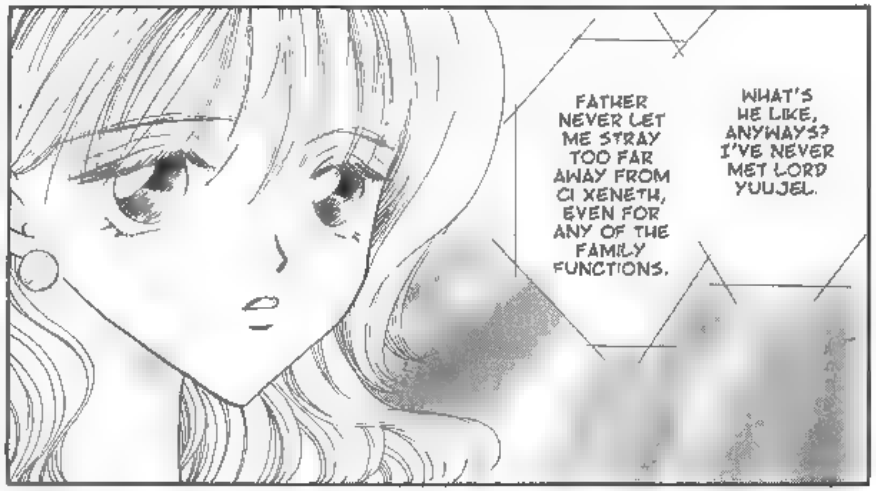
AND AFTER 10 YEARS
...NOTHING'S REALLY CHANGED

NO!
I DON'T WANNA! I'M GONNA MARRY DARRES!

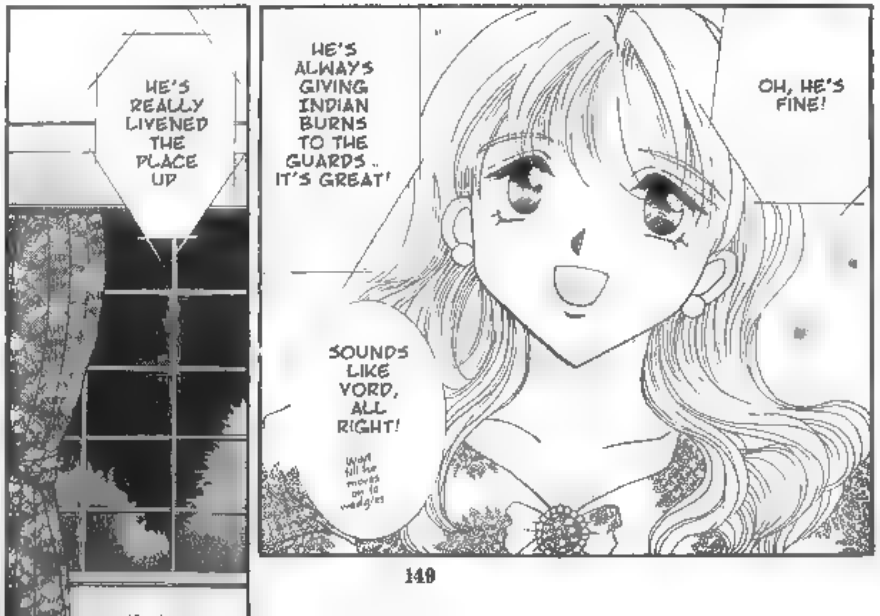
SO YEAH, FALAN, WE CAME OUT HERE FOR NOTHING.
JUST ANOTHER ONE OF THE OLD FART'S TRICKS.
WW
LO.
NOTH.NG'S CHANGED EXCEPT.ME

SO, YOU'RE ALL THE WAY OUT IN Z! ALDA?!
Darres watches in frustration as Ishtar uses up all of his Ruella Mirror's anytime minutes...

YUUJEL ISN'T EVEN HERE.
IT'S SO PATHETIC! HIS PLAN DIDN'T EVEN WORK...
I MIGHT AS WELL SPEND SOME TIME WITH MY AUNT WHILE I FIGURE OUT WHAT I'M GOING TO DO ABOUT KELD
YEAH, I FIGURED SINCE WE'RE OUT HERE ANYWAYS..

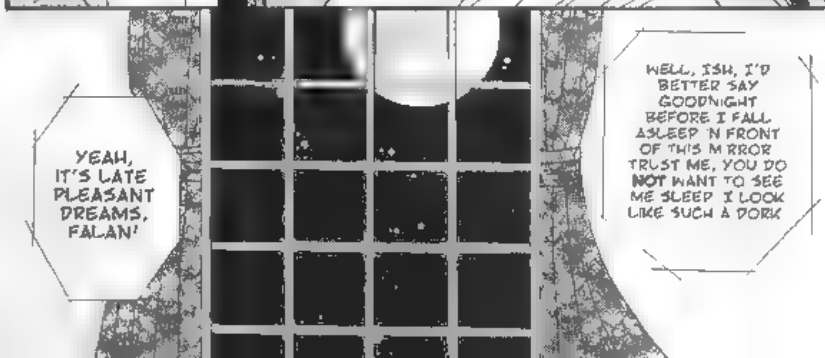

FATHER NEVER LET ME STRAY TOO FAR AWAY FROM CI XENETH, EVEN FOR ANY OF THE FAMILY FUNCTIONS.
WHAT'S HE LIKE, ANYWAYS? I'VE NEVER MET LORD YUUJEL.

NOT THAT I EVER REALLY WANTED TO BE TOO FAR FROM HIM..
ALL I EVER WANTED WAS FOR HIM TO THINK I WAS IMPORTANT
O-KAAAY.. GETTING AWKWARD...UH... HOW'S YORD DOING OVER THERE?


HE'S REALLY LIVENED THE PLACE UP
HE'S ALWAYS GIVING INDIAN BURNS TO THE GUARDS.. IT'S GREAT!
OH, HE'S FINE!
SOUNDS LIKE YORD, ALL RIGHT!
Wish fulfillment moves on to midgets

I FEEL SO BAD ABOUT LYING TO YOU
FALAN.
...I'M SORRY.
WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU?
WE ALL KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON MY FATHER COULD BE I MEAN, MONSTERS USED TO RUN FROM HIM
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

OH, FALAN.


YEAH, IT'S LATE PLEASANT DREAMS, FALAN!
WELL, ISH, I'D BETTER SAY GOODNIGHT BEFORE I FALL ASLEEP N FRONT OF THIS M RROR TRUST ME, YOU DO NOT WANT TO SEE ME SLEEP I LOOK LIKE SUCH A DORK

HE MAY BE A BIT ROUGH WITH THEM...
...BUT ALL THE RANKING OFFICERS REALLY LIKE HIM I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE YOU MET THAT CAN BELCH OPERA ARIAS?
...THAN BACK HOME IN LA NAAN.
AND I THINK HE LIKES IT HERE HE SAYS THERE'S A LOT LESS YELLING..

HMM.

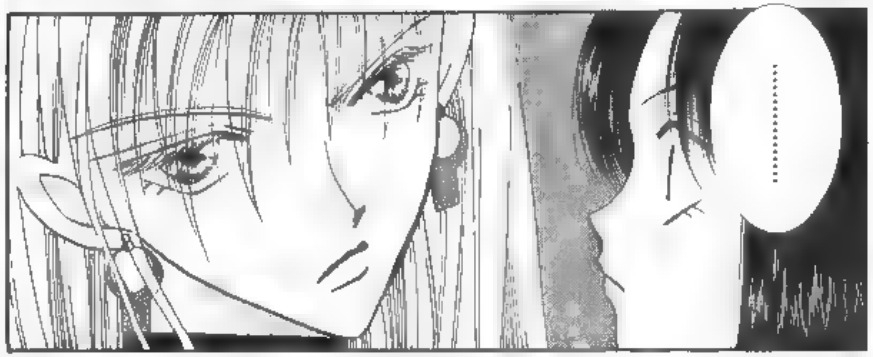
OH, ISHTAR! WE ALL THOUGHT T WAS HILARIOUS! YOU REALLY PUT ONE OVER ON US-- AGAIN!
STILL WHEN WE FOUND OUT HE WAS REALLY PRINCE VORD, HE'R TO LA NAAN...

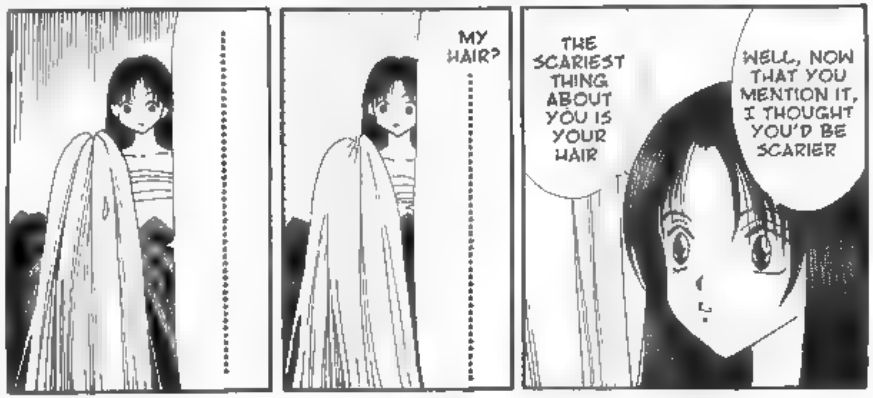
ALL THIS TIME I'VE SPENT WITH HER AND I STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW SHE DOES THAT
ふぁっ
ARE YOU FINALLY DONE?
WHAT WERE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT FOR SO LONG?

NEXT
!?
BUT SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH TRICKS UP HER SLEEVE.
HMM..

SAY IT AGAIN? ISHTAR'S IN ZI ALDA?!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN MY TRUE FORM, AND ALL YOU CAN SAY IS THAT YOU LIKE MY CAPE?
WHAT?!
!!
WOW, DUZIE! THAT CAPE LOOKS GREAT ON YOU! IS YOUR MAGIC STRONG ENOUGH TO CONJURE UP STUFF NOW?! WILL YOU MAKE ME ONE? IN GREEN?!

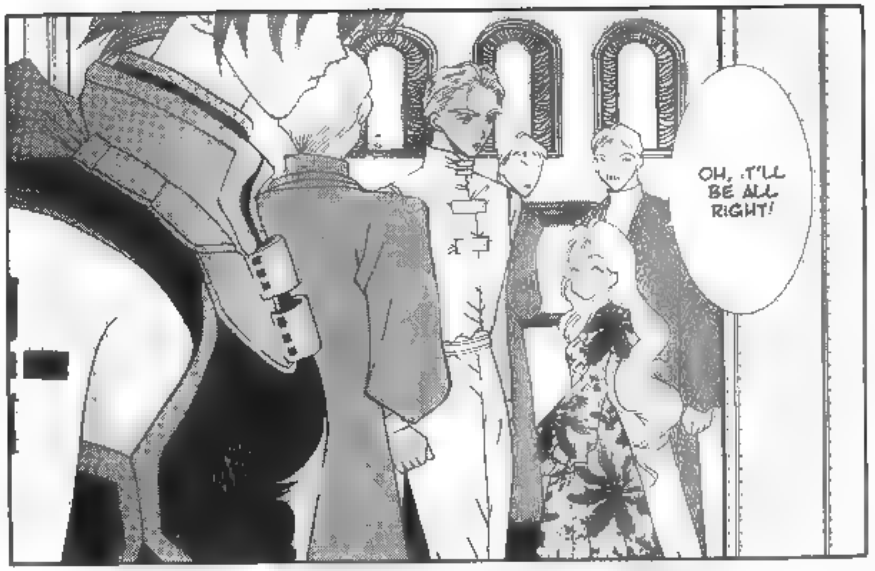



MY HAIR?
THE SCARIEST THING ABOUT YOU IS YOUR HAIR
WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE SCARIER

WHAT?
HE CAN'T GO NOW! HE'S ON A MISSION OF DIPLOMACY.
THE PEOPLE NEED TO SEE OUR HOUSES STANDING TOGETHER IN THE WAKE OF YOUR FATHER'S PASSING!
さわ
さわ

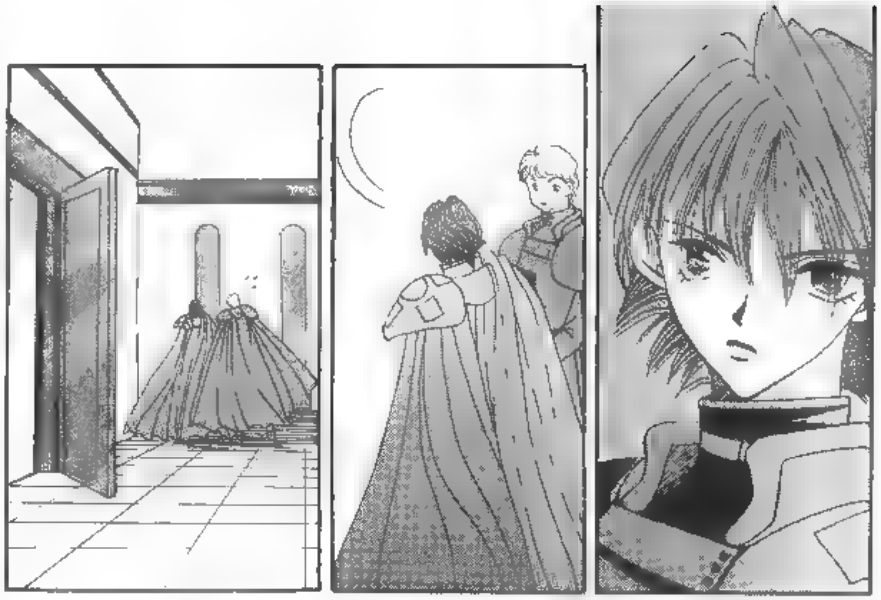
ISN'T HE SOMEONE RELATED TO THE HOUSE OF ZI ALDA?
AND DOESN'T LADY SONIA HAVE AN ELIGIBLE BACHELOR FOR A SON ?
HOLD ON A SECOND!
KELD TRICKED THEM? SOMETHING'S GOING ON HERE...
SURE IS!
KELD TRICKED HER INTO PAYING HER AUNT A VISIT! VORD, THIS MIRROR OF YOURS IS THE BEST!
ISHTAR AND I CAN CHAT ANY TIME WE WANT YOU DON'T MIND IF I HANG ON TO IT FOR A BIT, DO YOU?
..BUT SOMETHING FISHY'S GOING ON HERE FOR SURE .
I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT..
SO VORD, WHEN CAN YOU LEAVE FOR ZI ALDA?

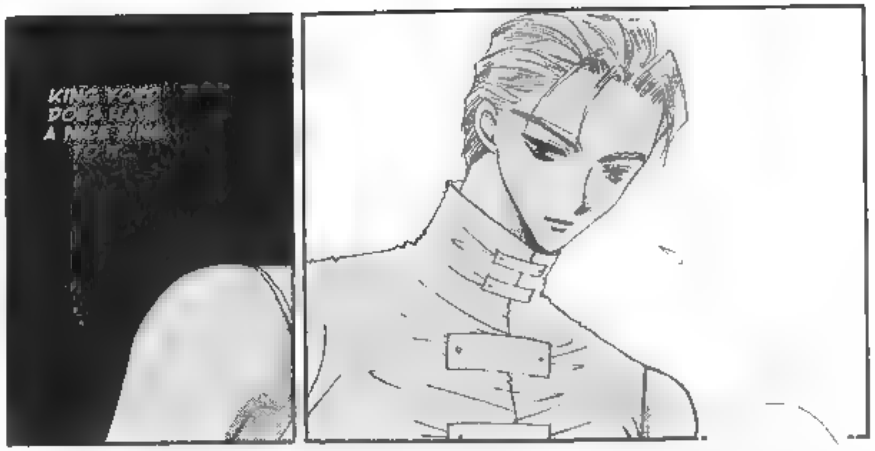
HOLD ON A SECOND! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
WELL, TO BE PERFECTLY FRANK, YOUR ANTICS ARE MAKING MY GUARDS LOOK LIKE A BUNCH OF IMBECILES
AND BESIDES...
DON'T WORRY! I'M IN YOUR CORNER!
GET OUT THERE AND FIGHT FOR THE ONE YOU LOVE! AND DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN AROUND THOSE OTHER NOBLEMEN!
I'VE SEEN THE WAY YOU LOOK AT HER YOU'RE NOT JUST AFTER HER CROWN.
AND IT COULDN'T HURT TO HAVE THE KING OF PHELIOSTA IN YOUR DEBT!


OH, I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

AREN'T YOU, VORD?
BESIDES, VORD'S NOT A DIPLOMAT, HE'S A WARRIOR.
WE'LL COVER FOR HIM IF HIS MOTHER COMES LOOKING.

!!
A WARRIOR THAT JUST HAPPENS TO HAVE A CRUSH ON ISHTAR.



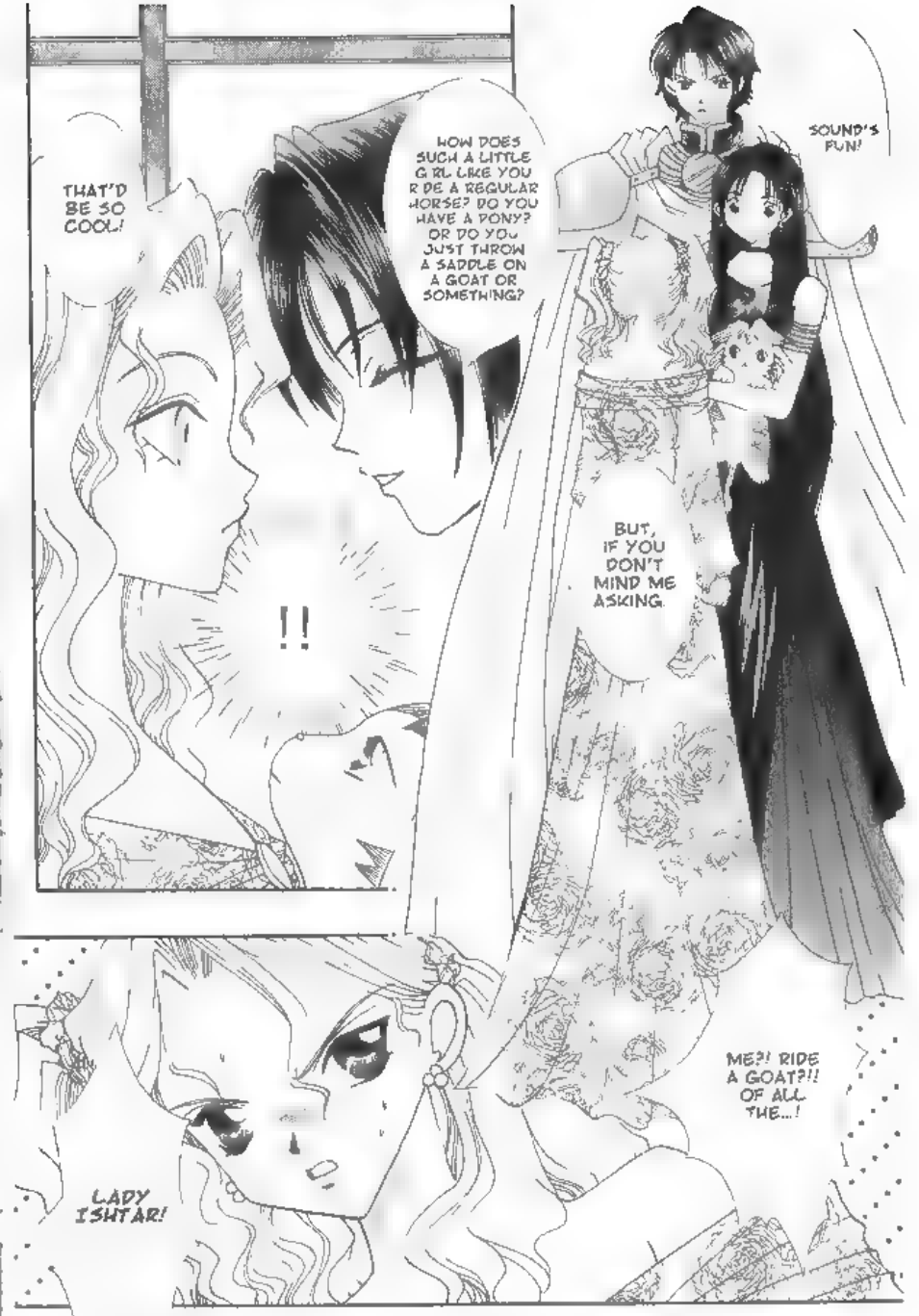


Zi Alda

WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! ZI ALDA'S NOT GETING ANY CLOSER!
ISHTAR SURE IS A LUCKY GIRL! IF SHE HAS ANY SENSE, SHE'LL PICK YOU, VORD I KNOW I WOULD!

吸血遊戯
南領篇（ゼ・アルタ）
Act.3

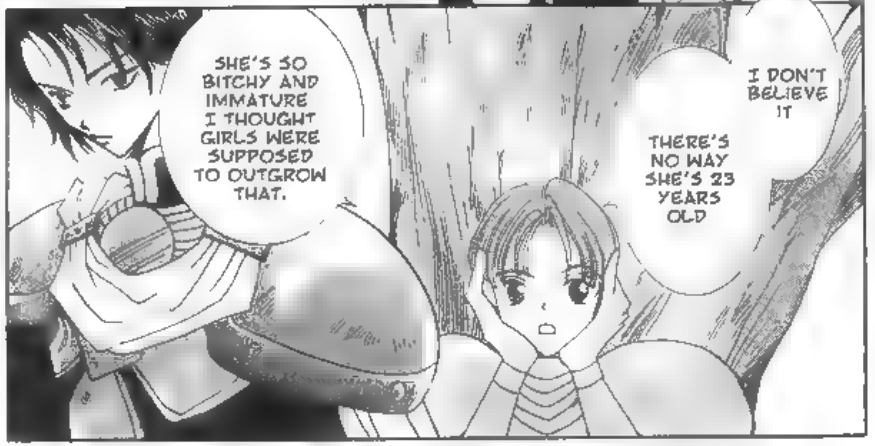
WHAT?!
YOUNGER?! I'M 23!
WATCH YOUR TONGUE! JUST BECAUSE LADY LEENE IS YOUNGER THAN YOU ARE DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE FREE TO GIVE HER A HARD TIME.
I SAID I'M 23 YEARS OLD
AND WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR CONVERSATION, I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE STABLES


THAT'D BE SO COOL!
HOW DOES SUCH A LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU RIDE A REGULAR HORSE? DO YOU HAVE A PONY? OR DO YOU JUST THROW A SADDLE ON A GOAT OR SOMETHING?
!!
SOUND'S FUN!
BUT, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING
LADY ISHTAR!
ME?! RIDE A GOAT?!! OF ALL THE..!

.....
.....
YOU'RE SAYING SHE PICKED OUT THAT DRESS? I FIGURED IT HAD TO BE HER MOM.
SHE'S 23?
WIPE THAT SMIRK OFF YOUR FACE!

IT'S HER FAULT, OF COURSE. SHE NEVER SHOULD HAVE MARRIED A GUY NAMED "ASHLEY" NO ONE NAMED ASHLEY IS GOOD IN BED NO ONE.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT IT S. IT'S SEXUAL FRUSTRATION THAT HUSBAND OF HERS ISN T DEL VER NG THE GOODS IT DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO FIGURE THAT OUT I MEAN LOOK AT HIM I'LL BET MY NEXT PAYCHECK THAT THE GUY HAS A LIMP SHRIMP WHY ELSE WOULD SHE BE SO INTERESTED N YUUJEL?
APPARENTLY NOT HER

KRAI! JILL! REMEMBER YOUR STATIONS!
OH, REALLY? AND EXACTLY HOW WOULD YOU KNOW THAT?


SHE'S SO BITCHY AND IMMATURE I THOUGHT GIRLS WERE SUPPOSED TO OUTGROW THAT.
THERE'S NO WAY SHE'S 23 YEARS OLD
I DON'T BELIEVE IT

YEAH, IT'S REALLY HARD TO FIND ME, I MEAN! SO I'VE BEEN TOLD!
FANS? I HAVE FANS?!
LADY LUCY!
YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE THIS, BUT AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE...
...IS ONE OF YOUR BIGGEST FANS.
CAN YOU HELP US?! WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT THESE SADDLES ON!
ぎゃあ
ぎゃあ
ガシャ

HELLO
YOU'RE SIR DARRES, AREN'T YOU? LADY ISHTAR'S BODYGUARD...
.....?
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU.
I'M LUCY. I WORK IN SIR ASHLEY'S OFFICE
YOU'RE A DIFFICULT MAN TO HUNT DOWN, DARRES.

I WONDER WHO SHE'S TALKING ABOUT. I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE KNEW ME HERE WELL, IF HER FRIEND LOOKS ANYTHING LIKE HER, I'M NOT COMPLAINING..
SORRY, I'VE GOT TO GO! BUT I'LL SEE YOU LATER, OKAY?
WHO'S THIS FAN?
YOU GIRLS ARE COMPLETELY USELESS! DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING?
ACTUALLY, HE WAS MORE OF A STALKER THAN A FAN, I SUPPOSE, BUT IT WAS STILL KINDA COOL. I WONDER WHO YOUR FAN IS?
WOW, CAPTAIN! YOU'VE GOT A GROUPIE! THAT'S GREAT! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A FAN. UNFORTUNATELY, THE CLOSEST I GOT TO ONE WAS THIS WEIRD GUY WHO USED TO RECITE DIRTY LIMERICKS OUTSIDE MY WINDOW EVERY OTHER NIGHT.
HELLOOOO, GIRLS! IS THIS MEAN OL' HORSE GIVING YOU PROBLEMS?
WAIT A SECOND, KRAI!!
DID YOU SEE HOW LUCY WAS CHECKING YOU OUT?!
WHO CARES ABOUT THE FAN?!
YOU PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT WITH HER, CAPTAIN.
...AND THIS WON'T BE THE ONLY RIDE YOU TAKE THIS TRIP
IN FACT, DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING. I'LL GO TALK TO THOSE GIRLS AND SEE IF I CAN GET THIS LUCY'S STORY FOR YOU
?
?
?
!?

...ASHLEY!!!
!!

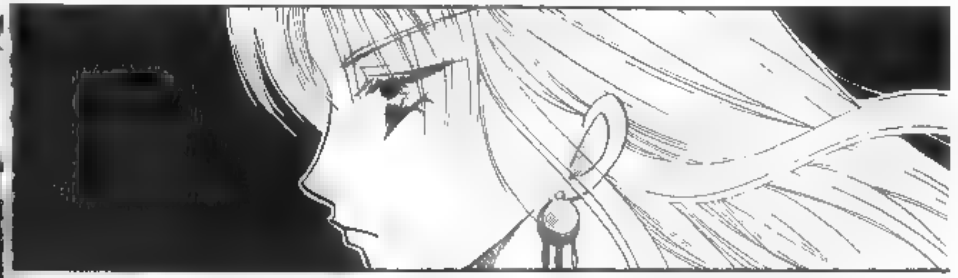
C'mon, Kev! Quit keeping us in suspense!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS, BUT...
ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN. APPARENTLY THIS LUCY GIRL IS A BIT HIGH MAINTENANCE BEST TO FORGET ABOUT HER HOWEVER I DID ASK ABOUT HER FRIEND

WHAT?!
.. THEY SAID IT EITHER HAD TO BE OUR FRIEND MEANIE LEENEY, HER HUSBAND, OR...SIR YUUJEL!

LADY LEENE DESPISES EVERYONE AND EVERTHING, SO I SERIOUSLY DOUBT IT'S HER WHICH LEAVES ONLY...
...HE'S TOO BUSY SNOGGING EVERYONE ELSE.
NOW, I DON'T THINK IT'S YUUJEL...

REMEMBER, SHE'S AN OLD LADY
IF YOU SCARE HER SHE'S LIABLE TO WET HER PANTS OR HAVE A STROKE OR SOMETHING, SO BE CAREFUL
OKAY, DUZIE, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE KELD LEARNS THAT YUUJEL ISN'T HERE, SO I'D SUGGEST TESTING AUNT SONA'S BLOOD SOONER RATHER THAN LATER
TONIGHT, IF POSSIBLE
IF ISHTAR KNEW WHAT I USED TO DO, TO MY VICTIMS, SHE'D BE WORRIED ABOUT A LOT MORE THAN HER AUNT WETTING HER PANTS
HOW EXACTLY DOES ONE GO ABOUT TASTING SOMEONE'S BLOOD CAREFULLY, ANYHOW?
DO I CLAIM IT'S IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE? IT'S WORKED BEFORE.

AND WHERE HAS HE BEEN HIDING ALL MY LIFE?
WHO'S THAT?



WELL, I DON'T THINK YOU LOOK EVIL ENOUGH OF COURSE, NO MATTER HOW VAMPED OUT YOU LOOK, YOU'LL STILL ALWAYS BE MY CUDDLY-WUDDLY LITTLE DUZIE TO ME!
...
REALLY?

"NO MATTER HOW VAMPED OUT YOU LOOK..."

"...YOU'LL STILL ALWAYS BE MY CUDDLY WUDDLY LITTLE DUZIE TO ME!"

Hey, I'm creeping myself out! How cool!
SO THAT'S REALLY YOUR TRUE FORM, DUZIE?!
HOW SPOOKY! NOW I REALLY FEEL LIKE THE SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE KING DUZELL HAS FALLEN UPON OUR CASTLE!
For a vampire, this guy has a lot of fears in front of the mirror!
YOU KNOW, PRINCESS
..THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THIS FACE INSPIRED GRAVE FEAR IN ALL OF PHELIOSTA!
I STILL THINK YOU COULD BE A LOT SCARIER IF YOU CAN CHANGE THE WAY YOU LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE YOURSELF SOME RED EYES AND FUR? OOH! AND CLAWS! GIVE YOURSELF SOME CLAWS!

"NO MATTER HOW VAMPED OUT YOU LOOK.."

"YOU'LL STILL ALWAYS BE MY CUDDLY WUDDLY LITTLE DUZIE TO ME!"

...AND SHE IMMEDIATELY KNEW IT WAS ME

YOU KNOW, THERE MAY ACTUALLY BE SOME TRUTH TO THAT ISHTAR WOKE UP TO FIND A STRANGER STANDING OVER HER..

HOW'D SHE KNOW? WAS IT JUST A GUESS?

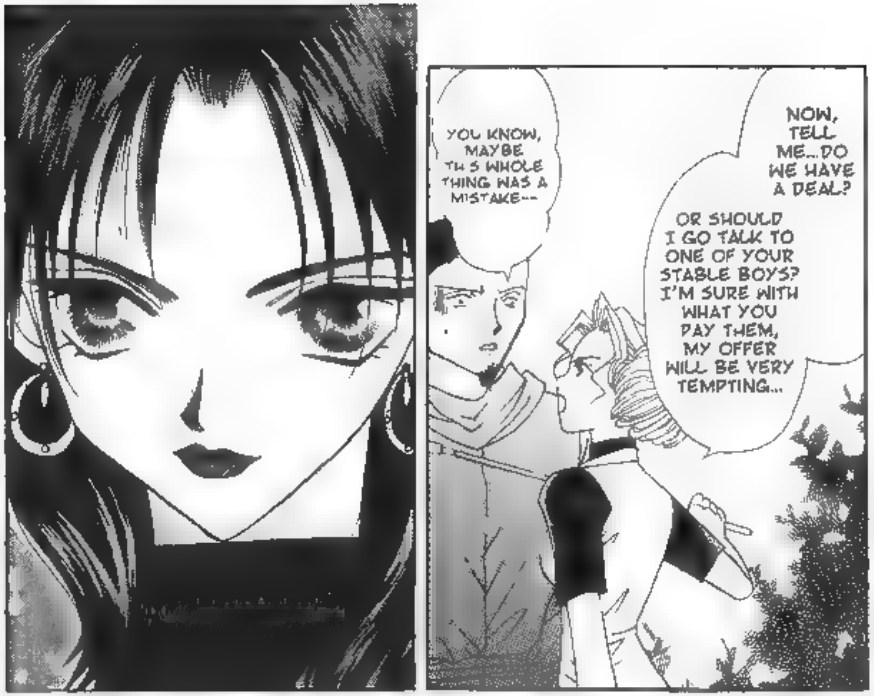
HER WORDS MAKE ME FEEL WARM THEY MAKE ME FEEL HAPPY
IT'S ODD..
MORE THAN THE LUSTFUL STARE OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
MORE THAN THE THRILL OF BATTLE OR TASTE OF VIRGIN BLOOD...

SO THIS IS BACKBREAKER? HE DOESN'T LOOK SO WILD
YOU'VE REALLY HAD A LOT ON YOUR SHOULDERS, HAVEN'T YOU?
OH, HE IS..
MAKE NO MISTAKE, LADY LEENE.
I'VE LOST TWO STABLE BOYS TO THIS STALLION. AND A PIG. BUT, UH, YOU DON'T WANT TO ASK ABOUT THE PIG.
..BUT HE'LL CRIPPLE ANYONE WHO TRIES TO MOUNT HIM.
HE MIGHT HAVE THE FACE OF A COLT

!?
AND SHE'S WITH HER GENERAL. THAT COULD BE A PROBLEM.
THAT'S HER. THAT'S LADY SONIA
..BETWEEN YUUJEL AND LEENE
ASHLEY, BETWEEN THE STATE OF THINGS OUT IN THE PROVINCES, AND ALL OF THIS NONSENSE ...

WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING.
...I NEED YOU TO SWITCH THIS HORSE.
..WITH THE ONE SET ASIDE FOR PRINCESS ISHTAR
I SAID I'D GET THE HORSE I D DN'T SAY I'D DO YOUR DIRTY WORK
DON'T WORRY
I ASSURE YOU, YOU WILL BE HANDSOMELY REWARDED
AND I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT MONEY.
OH, YES, MA'AM
..WILL LIVE UP TO HIS NAME.
HE'LL GET THE JOB DONE.
LOOK, ALL I CARE ABOUT IS WHETHER OR NOT THIS BACK-BREAKER
GOOD, THEN THERE'S ONE MORE THING I NEED YOU TO DO.
!?

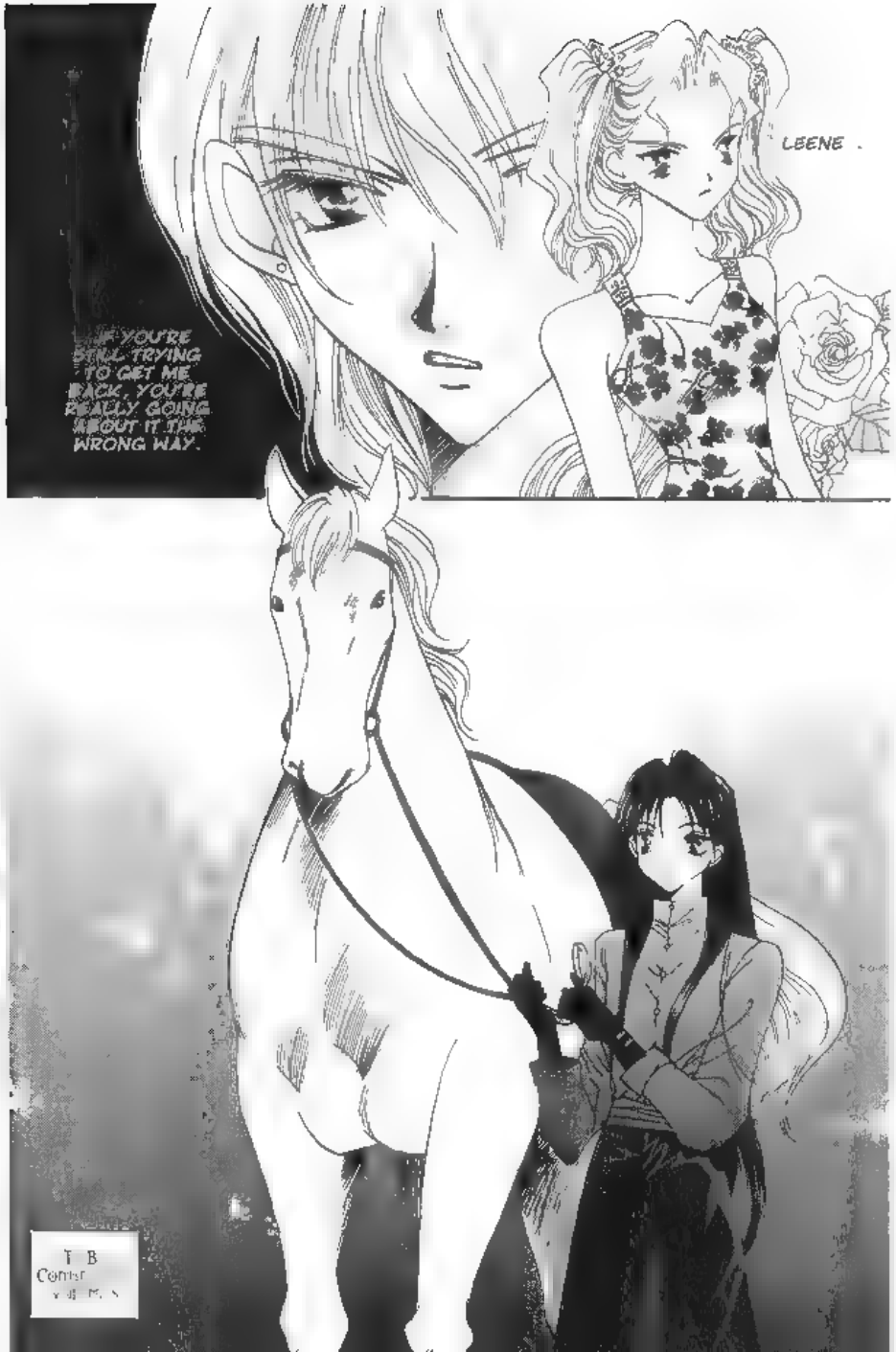
WHAT JUST HAPPENED ?
I'LL SWITCH THE PRINCESS' HORSE WITH BACKBREAKER, AS ORDERED BY LADY LEENE.
!?


YOU KNOW, MAYBE THIS WHOLE THING WAS A MISTAKE--
NOW, TELL ME...DO WE HAVE A DEAL?
OR SHOULD I GO TALK TO ONE OF YOUR STABLE BOYS? I'M SURE WITH WHAT YOU PAY THEM, MY OFFER WILL BE VERY TEMPTING...

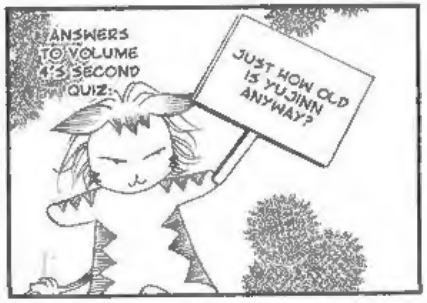
YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN AN ORDER BY LADY LEENE LADY LEENE'S ORDERS MUST BE OBEYED
I'VE BEEN GIVEN AN ORDER BY LADY LEENE.

Pheliosta Castle
I GOT TO MEET YOUR FAVORITE COUPLE TODAY
SHE'S A BIT SHORT FOR HIM, THOUGH, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU'RE HARDLY ONE TO TALK
I WILL DO AS LADY LEENE ORDERS. .
OKAY, FINE. THEY'RE NOT MY FAVORITE...
YOU ARE. YOU AND WHOMEVER YOUR CURRENT TOY-OF-THE-WEEK IS.
OR MAYBE T'S LEENE AND THAT TWIT HUSBAND OF HERS.
LOOK, I LOVE YOU ALL, OKAY?
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT! I'M GOING RIDING WITH DARRES AND THE PRINCESS TODAY!
I KNEW THAT WAS COM NG.
I KNOW THAT, SILLY!
AND I ALSO KNOW THAT'S WHY YOU HAVEN'T COME BACK TO ZI ALDA.
LADY LEENE SET THE WHOLE THING UP

WAIT A SECOND... SOMETHING'S GOING ON! I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER!
WHAT IS IT?
.....
NOW, WOULD I DO THAT?
THEY'VE SADDLED THE WRONG HORSE FOR LADY ISHTAR!
!!
SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE USING LADY SONIA'S HORSE! BUT THAT'S NOT TROTTER! I'VE GOT TO GO!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT SINCE YOU'RE NOT HERE, I'LL PROTECT HER MAJESTY..
..WITH MY LIFE
LUCY
IT WAS LADY LEENE'S IDEA?
ARE YOU TRYING TO BLACKMAIL ME INTO COMING BACK TO Z! ALDA?
OR IS IT..?


LEENE .
IF YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO GET ME BACK, YOU'RE REALLY GOING ABOUT IT THE WRONG WAY.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ 2



38?
17?
PEOPLE GUESSED ANYWHERE FROM 17 TO 38. AND ONE GUY THOUGHT IT WAS A TRICK QUESTION AND ANSWERED "J.D. SALINGER."
I KNEW THESE QUIZZES WERE CHALLENGING, BUT I DIDN'T THINK THEY WERE THAT DIFFICULT.
HMPH!

ANSWERS TO QUIZ 1

AND I THOUGHT IT WAS GENJYO'S CREW THAT WENT WEST, NOT DARRES!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL HERE?! NO ONE KNEW ABOUT ASHLEY IN VOL. 4!
...AS YOU MAY HAVE GUESSED, NO ONE GOT IT 100% RIGHT!

HE CAME TO SAVE ME! JUST LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES!
THAT'S BECAUSE HE DID GO EAST, YOU STUPID LITTLE CAT-THING!
WELL, A LOT OF PEOPLE WROTE THAT HE WENT EAST...

HI THERE! IT'S ME, JUDAL!

THIS WAS THE 7TH VOLUME OF VAMPIRE GAME. WE'VE NOW WRAPPED UP THE CI XENETH ARC AND BEGINNING OUR CRAZIEST STORY ARC YET--- ZI ALDA!
THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO'S TAKEN THE TIME TO READ MY BOOKS!

YUJINN! OR SHOULD WE SAY...YUUJEL
:CUE DRAMATIC MUSIC:
AND IT LOOKS LIKE ISHTAR HAS SOME COMPETITION FOR DARRES!
WE'VE ALSO LEARNED THIS TRUTH ABOUT YUJINN! IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S AFTER ISHTAR TOO!

In Place of a Postscript...

ANSWERS TO QUIZ 3

PUT IT IN!! PUT IT IN!!
THERE WERE'N'T MANY PEOPLE WHO FIGURED THAT OUT, SO I WAS THINKING OF PUTTING A SCENE IN SOMEWHERE TO EXPLAIN IT. THEN I WENT OUT FOR SUSHI AND FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT TILL NOW.

LETTERS, PART ONE

I GET LOTS OF MAIL FROM PEOPLE WHO WORK AS EDITORS FOR PUBLISHERS AND WANT TO BECOME MANGA ARTISTS.
Many of them want to be voice actors or manga artists' assistants too.

IT'S REALLY JUST TOO SCARY TO TRY! NO, FOR REAL!! WHAT IF I FAIL? I DESERVE TO BE A BUSBOY... REALLY, I DO!
TO MR. EDITOR-IN-CHIEF...
CASE #1: THE SORTA TRUE STORY OF MANGA-KA A!
THEY REALLY WANT TO WRITE MANGA, BUT THEN THEY GET TO THINKING "EH, IT WON'T WORK OUT," SO THEY DON'T.
SHE'D BE A BIT HAPPIER IF IT WERE TRUE.
LOVE ME!

YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME THAT THEY'RE EACH OTHER'S "SPECIAL FRIENDS," RIGHT?
SO I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE TWO MALE CHARACTERS' RELATIONSHIP...
CASE #2: THE BIZARRE CASE OF MANGA-KA B!
WAIT A MINUTE. I THOUGHT THEY WERE BROTHERS...

IN YOUR DREAMS!
OKAY, SO THE LESSON HERE IS THAT ANYONE CAN MAKE A GREAT MANGA. ANYONE CAN GET A PUBLISHING CONTRACT. ANYONE CAN BECOME FAMOUS AND LIVE LIVES RICH WITH EXCITEMENT, WEALTH, AND BEAUTIFUL MEN AND WOMEN.

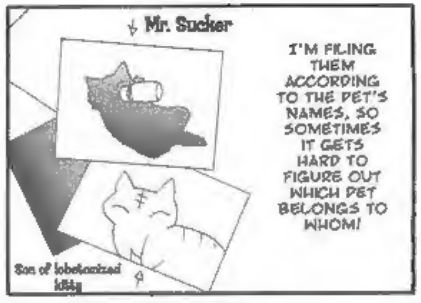
A DAY IN THE LIFE

MERE WORDS COULD NOT DESCRIBE THE MISERY AND ANGUISH I FELT AT THAT MOMENT. I DESPAIRED OF EVER FINDING A PERSON, PLACE OR THING THAT COULD COME REMOTELY CLOSE TO REDEEMING THIS WORLD FOR SUCH A CRUEL PRANK.

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO BUY A NEW ONE RIGHT NOW...
PLAYSTATION, MY PLAYSTATION! WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST HANG IN THERE A FEW MORE MONTHS?
...BUT THERE ARE SO MANY GAMES I WANT TO PLAY!
ESPECIALLY SINCE IT BROKE JUST A FEW MONTHS BEFORE THE RELEASE OF THE PS2!
AAARGH!!

IF I CAN'T FIGURE OUT SOMETHING QUICK, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE DRASTIC ACTION...
WHEN I SAY IT BROKE, I REALLY MEAN THAT I PRESSED ONE OF THE BUTTONS TOO MANY TIMES. AND, UH, MAYBE KICKED IT...SEVEN OR EIGHT TIMES.
Where's my After 2600? The horror! The horror!

LETTERS, PART TWO


Mr. Sucker
I'M FILING THEM ACCORDING TO THE PET'S NAMES, SO SOMETIMES IT GETS HARD TO FIGURE OUT WHICH PET BELOWGS TO WHOM!
Son of lobotomized kitty

I DON'T THINK I'LL BE WRITING HIM...
AND OCCASIONALLY I'LL GET A LETTER THAT SAYS SOMETHING LIKE THIS: "EVEN THOUGH MY FAMILY WAS DEAD SET AGAINST IT, I NAMED MY KITTY 'DUZELL'! I EVEN TAUGHT HIM TO SUCK BLOOD! IT WOULD BE GREAT TO HEAR FROM YOU. PLEASE WRITE TO ME IN CARE OF THE YOKOHAMA HOME FOR THE MENTALLY UNSTABLE."

OH, AND TO EVERYONE OUT THERE WHO DIDN'T INCLUDE YOUR PET'S NAME THE FIRST TIME, PLEASE WRITE ME BACK WITH THEIR NAMES, OTHERWISE MY FILES WILL BE PERMANENTLY OUT OF ORDER!

VAMPIRE GAME

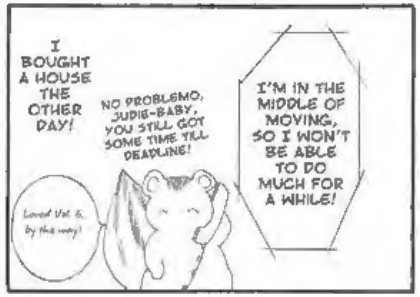
Next issue...

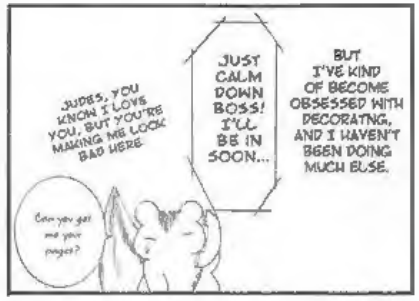
Ishtar didn't come to Zi Alda looking for trouble, but trouble has a way of catching up with our beloved princess. And this time around, it arrives in the guise of a nasty-tempered beast with a real bad attitude...and a horse.

Lady Leene was once the fairest girl in all of Zi Alda. Then Princess Ishtar came to town. Young, pretty, and powerful, Ishtar would make any woman feel threatened. But for the very jealous Leene, the princess is more than a threat, she's the enemy. Enter Backbreaker. Untamed, wild and completely unbroken, Backbreaker is a hurricane made equine. And he's got a riding date with the unsuspecting Ishtar. Will our princess prevail? Or will Backbreaker take Ishtar on a ride to die for?

Note: Judal wishes it to be known that no horses were hurt in the drawing of this manga.

CONCLUSION


I BOUGHT A HOUSE THE OTHER DAY!
NO PROBLEMO, JUDIE-BABY, YOU STILL GOT SOME TIME TILL DEADLINE!
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF MOVING, SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO MUCH FOR A WHILE!
Loved Vol. 6, by the way!

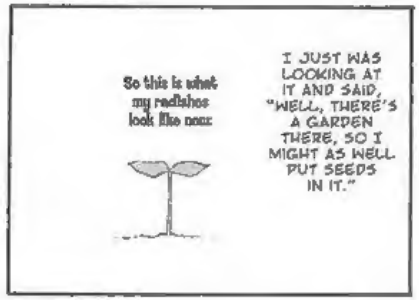

JUDES, YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU, BUT YOU'RE MAKING ME LOOK BAD HERE
JUST CALM DOWN BOSS! I'LL BE IN SOON...
BUT I'VE KIND OF BECOME OBSESSED WITH DECORATING, AND I HAVEN'T BEEN DOING MUCH ELSE.
Can you get me your pages?

...I MIGHT NOT HAVE A HOUSE MUCH LONGER!
THAT'S IT! WE'RE DROPPING YOUR BOOKS, BUDDY! YOU'LL NEVER WORK IN THIS TOWN AGAIN!
BUT UNLESS I GET BACK TO WORK...

ANOTHER DAY IN THE LIFE

FOR THE PAST MONTH, I'VE BEEN PLANTING ALL SORTS OF THINGS IN MY GARDEN! IT'S LOTS OF FUN FOR ME SINCE I'VE NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE!

TO BE HONEST, I NEVER REALLY MEANT TO BECOME ONE OF THOSE GARDENING NUTS.
I'VE GOT LEMON BALM, PEPPERMINT, CHAMOMILE, CALIFORNIA POPPIES, BABY'S BREATH, RADISHES, PARSLEY, SWEET PEAS, FLOWERS THAT BLOOM IN THE COLD, LAWN TULIPS, AND CATNIP...


So this is what my radishes look like now:
I JUST WAS LOOKING AT IT AND SAID, "WELL, THERE'S A GARDEN THERE, SO I MIGHT AS WELL PUT SEEDS IN IT."

ABOUT HALF OF MY SEEDS ARE SPROUTING SO FAR!
SHOOT! I WAS HOPING SHE WOULDN'T FIND OUT.
OH, WOW!
YOU CAN EVEN EAT SOME OF THIS STUFF! WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT?
Sometimes she's a bit slow!

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VAMPIRE GAME™

In a no-holds-barred showdown, Ishtar, Duzell and Darres face off against Lord Jened and his High Sorcerer, Dinoge. Falan observes helplessly, caught between the love of her father and her desire for justice. Duty, loyalty and devotion are all pushed to the breaking point, as everybody's decisions meld into an explosive, heartbreaking and—if we do say so ourselves—pretty darn shocking climax!

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